



JULY 24TH PROGRAM

Come and join us!!!

We are planning a very interesting, informative program with guest speaker, Richard (Dick) Lanyon, who has just written a detailed history of the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal. We know you will enjoy it and he will also be bringing his book for purchase and autographing it too. (Look at insert for more info on author and book.)

We will be having the Dinner/Program at the Del Rhea's Chicken Basket, which also has a long history in our area and in fact is celebrating their 66th Anniversary. Dinner Menu: Soup, Salad Bar, Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Home Baked Rolls, tea or soft drink and Dessert. Tax and tip included. Also as a bonus the restaurant will have a presenter telling stories of old RR#66.

Details: Chicken Basket Del Rhea

Dinner Price:

Member -\$28.00

Non-Member -\$30.00

Fellowship: 5:30-6pm. Dinner:6pm.

Programs following

Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439

lemontahs@sbcglobal.net

www.lemonthistorical.org

July – August 2012 Edition

Schedule of Events

July 14 Heritage Fest – Historic Photo Shoot + Bingo (1-3:30)

July 24: Dinner/Program

Del Rhea's Chicken Basket

(See Details this Page)

Sept 25 – Lemont Street Fair

(10am – 4pm.)

Volunteers and Vendors will be Needed!

"Blueprint of Lemont"

LIMITED VIEWING TIME



LHS Art Teacher Ryan Hennebry brought in one of the 8 paintings judged exceptional from his class. Would we display it? A resounding "Yes." The artist is Monica Furzcon. Proudly displayed in our lobby with another local artist's painting, Mr. Baker, of our "Old Stone Church." Other pix of artist and teacher in newsletter.



Presenter Richard (Dick) Lanyon

Better known as Dick Lanyon, he retired from his position as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) at the close of 2010, a position that he was appointed to in June 2006. As Executive Director, he directed the day-to-day operations of the MWRD, which included 2,100 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$1 billion. Dick's career at the MWRD spanned nearly 48 years. Dick recently published *Building the Canal to Save Chicago*, a historical documentary of the first project of the MWRD.

www.buildcanalsavechicago.com

The MWRD is one of the largest wastewater collection and treatment agencies in the world, serving five million people in Cook County and the industrial equivalent of another four million people. The District also provides stormwater management and other related services to protect the environment.

Among his awards, Dick received the American Society of Civil Engineer's National Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award in 1999 and Distinguished Alumnus of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2003. In May 2011 he received the Edward J. Cleary Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers

Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and holds Bachelors and Masters of Civil Engineering degrees from the UIUC. He has been involved in a variety of technical activities for ASCE, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and NACWA.

He recently represented the MWRD on the Advisory Committee for the study of separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Cities Initiative. He is currently the Chairman of the Evanston Utility Commission. He and his wife Marsha reside in Evanston and he continues to be an advocate for sensible and sustainable water management in the urban environment.

Book title: Building the Canal to Save Chicago

Author: Richard Lanyon

Released: February 2012

Abstract: Chicago was the fastest growing city in the late 1800s, but its location had one big disadvantage - poor drainage. Cholera and typhoid were rampant and Chicago had one of the highest mortality rates among major cities. The Chicago River was a public nuisance, polluted and smelly, and discharging to the source of water for the city, Lake Michigan. The building of a canal to reverse the flow of the Chicago River solved these problems and allowed the city to continue to grow, the mortality rate plummeted and the river became enjoyable. The building of the canal required the creation of a new government and the development of pioneering construction technology that helped in the building of the Panama Canal. The reversal of the flow in the Chicago River remains a wonder of the world and it remains critical to a sustainable future for the Chicago metropolis.

Take care and hope to see you during the next few weeks! Best regards, Sue

President's Message. .

Raffle Winner Bernie with Pres. Susan Roy



Dear Members,
Hope you are all doing well and surviving this heat!

First of all, I would like to congratulate our winners of the Crosstown Classic Raffle : First Prize: Bernard Wojchichowski, We all hope they enjoyed the games! Also Gas Card Money, Shannon Madonia and Door Prize Winner Abe Ordman.

We would also like to especially thank John Quinn, Rick Homerding, Shannon Dughetti, Shannon Madonia, Tom's Place, Canal Street Pub, VRW POST 5819, the Lemont Fire Dept Assoc for making this raffle such a success! John and Rick really hit a home run with this idea and because it was such a success, we plan on doing it again next year as well.

A big thank you goes out to all of our Tag Day Volunteers. We could not have done it without you.

So far, our Lemont Quarrymen have been enjoying a victorious season. They won both home opening games against the Munster Centennials and won the round robin out at Cantigny on June 10th. We are looking forward to their next **home games** at Covington Park on **Sat, July 21st and Sat, Aug 18th**. Hope you all can make it out to support our team!

We hope to see you all at Heritage Fest. Uznanski Creations will again be shooting vintage photos in front of Smokey Row Antique Shop. We will have vintage clothing to wear for your photo shoot. Bring the whole family for a fun family photo!

Please keep July 24 open for our Annual Dinner Meeting. In addition to our speaker on the Canal, there will be story-telling about Route 66 from 7:00 to 7:30. Please feel free to bring any memorabilia you would like to share for this event.

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

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

“When We Were Kids.....”

What do the following things have to do with Genealogy?

Tinker toys

Rotary dial wall phones

Milkman

Instamatic flash cameras / flash cubes

Metal lunchboxes

45 records (and the center insert)

Ink wells / fountain pens

Howdy Doody Show, Bozo Show.....

Transistor radios

Mr. Potato Head

Coal/fuel oil delivered for home heating

While those already immersed in genealogy research find it fascinating some adults and most children don't see it that way. What's the point of learning about the lives of people you never knew and are already gone? Family history is important because it teaches us where we came from and how the family became who they are today.

Children are naturally curious and eager to learn about themselves. Teaching through stories is a painless way for a child to learn and it will pass on entire generations of memories. It doesn't have to be formal genealogy research and recording. It can start as simply as telling about activities “way back then” and comparing them to the way things are today. I remember my Dad always telling us about a game or toy they had played with by starting with “when we were kids” and quite often it was followed by “we made our own” but that's another story.

Many items of our past are already extinct today or are becoming extinct. Recently with technology changing faster than ever we have seen the fading out of analog TV,

bookstores, video rental stores, desktop computers, floppy disks, the “home phone” and paying cash for anything.

Our grandchildren will have that strange look on their face when our children are describing how these items worked; similar to the look from their parents when they heard about black and white television, drive in theaters, manual typewriters, 8 track tapes, phone booths and paying at the hardware store only after you finished your project.

The discussions introduced by parents provide an opportunity for children to develop a stronger sense of family, share special time with family members, make history come alive and create an opportunity for lifelong learning. They probably will have questions like, when and where did that happen? Who were those people and how am I related to them? Or, what kind of smart phone did Grandpa use when he was my age?☺ Your answers to their questions may even evolve into family history research.

If their detective nature takes hold, they won't even realize that they are learning along the way. They can be contrary and determined at times and may even take and run with the idea of uncovering a piece of their past a relative says was lost forever.

Ask your children or grandchildren to help you unravel the mystery of your family history, and you will be starting them, along with yourself on the journey of a lifetime. A child's family history can give them an opportunity to see how the world has changed; how things that they now enjoy were not even invented back then.



Connecting Branches

The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following new family names being researched:

Gary Craver researching Olinger family members

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



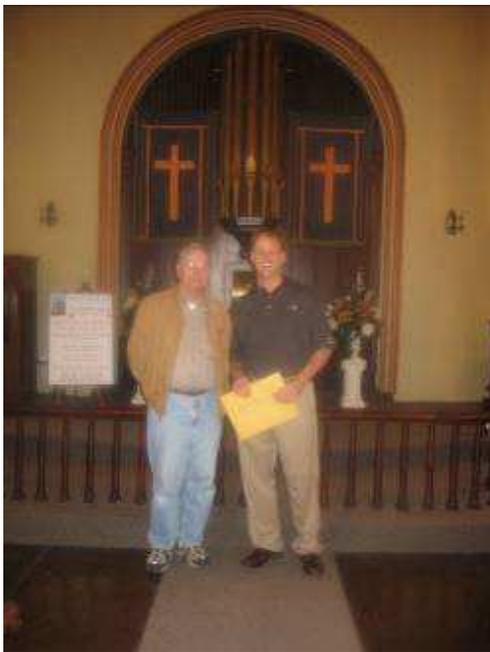
Mailbox

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.



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



1st VP Richard Lee presenting Dr. Glenn Groselak with a Life Membership at May Program for donating office computer.

RAFFLE DRAWING



Yates Brothers helped spin the barrel and pull out the winning tickets. Pix sd

CIVIL WAR PICNIC: Quarrymen Baseball Demo in our LAHS Garden



These Photos by Richard Lee



SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY!!!



The LAHS Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge fellow Board Member, Rick Homerding, on his recent 50th Birthday. We all wish him well as he begins his next century.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We are always grateful when members decide to rejoin us without even a reminder. Those renewing since the last issue are: Earl Hassert, and Karen Rodde.

GIRL SCOUT EXHIBIT

We now have a new exhibit honoring and celebrating the Girl Scouts of America. Nancy Hewitt, a Girl Scout for over 50 + years, and President of the Romeoville Historical Society, is the rep who came in and brought all the treasured items now on display. She has made it her business to make sure each community showcases artifacts from their particular town. In our case we have articles from both Lemont and Lockport. There is a passbook that girl scouts have been given with the intention of visiting at least 3 exhibits and having their passbook stamped and then they can purchase a particular badge. We have had several Girl Scouts come in with their moms. Many are visiting not only the required 3 but are determined to visit all of those in our area.

We encourage everyone to come in and view the exhibit which will run through our annual Street Fair on Sept 15.

GIRL SCOUT EXHIBIT



Girl Scout Life Member Gail August admires exhibit & loaned pixs





*STEPPING BACK IN
TIME*
By Susan Donahue

We recently received an inquiry for research on our Lemont Post Office and since there is a Genealogy Com. set in place to research people I offered to look up the necessary data. (Bldg. research has become my forte).

You know you take so much for granted as you hurry on your way to do errands like going to the Post Office that although you know the primary details like that it was dedicated on July 4, 1937 the particulars get lost.

It was an awakening of sorts like opening up a box you put aside and haven't looked in for awhile and you suddenly rediscover hidden treasures and memories.

The person requesting the research was very specific in what he needed. He works for a government agency and it did give me pause as we have from time to time heard about our venerable Post Office being decommissioned and in fact I had recently seen a documentary on PBS concerning saving such buildings that housed artwork from the WPA Project – which does fit us.

I had not really thought of what had been on that particular parcel of land before, but in fact I found out from newspaper articles there were quite a few buildings and the property chosen was owned by the Tedens family. The postmaster at the time was Mr. Tedens. The property was purchased for \$7,000. Several buildings on the site were sold before property changed hands and they were moved to other locations, while others were demolished.

Data gathered from the **LEMONT
OBSERVER & The LEMONTER
1936-1938**

The Lemont, June 25, 1936: There were two bids received on May 22, 1936 and because of it they were rejected and the variance in price was too great according to the U.S. Treasury.

The Lemont, July 23, 1936

Six bids received: Thorp-Rogoff Co. 306 S. Wabash, Chicago was awarded contract of \$58,900.00.

The Lemont, November 12, 1936

Excavation for the new Post Office was started this week by an excavating contractor from Downers Grove, IL, who bought a large steam shovel for that purpose. Sub-contractor of Thorp-Rogoff. Dirt and stone removed unless the company runs into solid stone then will have to be blasted. It is planned to dig the basement 7ft. deep and as there is about 6ft. of earth above the stone must be penetrated for at least a ft. Work continued the early part of week with the contractor employing a skeleton force upon the work.

The Lemont, December 3, 1936

Shaving top layers of stone beneath the excavated basement – subcontractor Lewis McGuire of Lemont is chipping and wedging the top layers of stone 2 inches thick off in such shape as to use later for flagstones. Plumbers cutting trenches in solid rock to lay pipes all covered by concrete made moisture proof and others getting ready to install pipes and sewers in trenches beneath the stone concrete floor.

To be continued in future newsletters. sd.

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LAHS Lobby – Paintings by local artists



Artist Monica Frozcon & Art Teacher Ryan Hennebry

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.

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: _____

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



Balcony Shot Wedding 5/2012