



**TEDDY BEAR BIRTHDAY BASH!!!  
PICNIC & TEA PARTY**

**JANUARY 22 (after 7pm. Meet)**

Well, I am all excited – let me introduce myself - my name is “Freddie the Teddy” (staff named me –they haven’t found my real name yet –it’s my secret ) and I was much loved by my original owner, Mabel. Home is now the museum and they are good to me.

The humans are throwing a party for me and all my teddy bear friends. You will have to be the chauffeur for yours and since they are shy like me you will have to tell everyone the story of how your beloved teddy came into your life or someone you loved passed him along to you for safe keeping (that is why I am at the museum). See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!

# 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)

**January 2013 Newsletter**

**January 22: TEDDY BEAR  
BIRTHDAY BASH (after brief  
meeting at 7pm.)**

**February 10- “Volunteer  
Appreciation Day beginning at 1:30**

**FEBRUARY 10 VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION DAY**

The Lemont Area Historical Board of Directors wishes to extend an invitation to all of you who have through 2012 volunteered in countless ways to continue the work of the society. Please join us at the museum starting at 1:30pm on Sunday, Feb 10. Refreshments, door prizes,, and fun. A way to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere. **R.S.V.P. by Feb 8th at 630-257-2972 or 630-888-5259. Please.**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Re-elected  
Barbara Bannon, John Bushman, and  
Doris Peterman and newly appointed  
Board Members Patricia Camalliere  
and John Quinn! Good to have all of  
you on Board.**

President's Message. .



Pres. Sue proudly displays donated Watercolor by Alden Finney Brooks.

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to all of you! We wish you all the very best of health, joy and prosperity to you and your families for 2013. We really appreciate everything you do for the Society. I am very grateful to all of you for the success of our 2012 events and I am looking forward to an exciting 2013!

Hopefully, you will be able to join us for our Teddy Bear Birthday Bash! We will be celebrating the history of the Teddy Bear, enjoying a Teddy Bear Picnic and Tea Party and inviting everyone to show and share a story about their "Very Loved Bear". We will also be providing Teddy Bear repair through the Historical Society for a small donation. We are hopeful that it will be an enjoyable evening for young and old!

The Board hopes that you have all had the chance to visit the Titanic Exhibit at the Museum. We are grateful for the guidance, research and artifacts lent to LAHS by David and Julia Bart and the Antique Wireless Association. Although Dave and Julia are Skokie residents, they have been extremely supportive of the LAHS over the last five years. Without their help, the Exhibit would not have been possible. We would also like to thank John Bart, Barbara Buschman, Rainbow Printing and Smokey Row Antique Shop for their contributions to

the Exhibit. The Exhibit will be on display at the Museum until fall of 2013. At that time (date to be determined) we will be opening an Exhibit commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Assassination of John F. Kennedy. If you happen to have any information, photos, memorabilia or stories you would like to share with the Society regarding JFK, please let us know. We would really appreciate it.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. we will be hosting our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Since it is so close to Ash Wednesday, we will be celebrating Mardi Gras style! We look forward to thanking all of our volunteers for all that you do for the Historical Society. Just to make sure that we have enough food, please let us know whether or not you will be attending by calling 630-257-2972 or 630-888-5259 by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the Village of Lemont will be sponsoring their St. Patrick's Day Parade. Several of the Board Members along with the Lemont Quarrymen participate in the parade. We would absolutely love it if you could join us! If you are interested, please call 630-257-2972 or 630-888-5259 closer to the event and we will have line-up time and location. As long as the weather is cooperative, it is a great afternoon!

Lastly, as you can see in the above photo, I am holding the water color painting that was given to the LAHS by Connor/Rosenshatz Gallery of New York. The watercolor is by Alden Finney Brooks. Titled: "IN DESPLAINES RIVER" circa 1860.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for donating this beautiful work of art to the Lemont Area Historical Society. Looking forward to seeing all of you in 2013!

Best Regards, Sue



*By Barb Bannon*

## **Reluctant Researchers**

When I started doing our family history research I thought everyone around me would be excited about my undertaking. But I quickly found out not everyone was as enthusiastic about genealogy as I was.

Every genealogist I have ever talked to about doing their family history has mentioned this same discovery. It usually happens when talking to someone about the latest find, even one that may grow an entire new branch on the tree, the listener tends to have that “far away” look in their eyes. Only another passionate genealogist would understand the “EUREKA” being screamed as new names and relationships are confirmed and added to the family history.

One reason given quite often for not getting involved in family history, is that it takes time and on that point I agree emphatically. If you consider genealogy a project with a scheduled completion date, then you need to devote every spare moment of your time without exception to doing research. If it is more of an ongoing passion that will be ever expanding with small completed goals within it, then you will have an enjoyable time doing your research at your leisure.

There have been many different suggestions on what might spark an interest but one idea has continually resurfaced. It is not only a possible stimulant of interest but also has potential as a resource of family information. I am talking about the keepsake book, memoir book, journal or whatever you would like to call it.

There are many different types available, I have found a number of them online and in bookstores. Some can be quite elaborate

hardbound leather books with a series of questions to guide the writer through their story and with space available on archival acid free paper to record memories and attach photos. Others can be as simple as a small journal or notebook with fill in the blank questions to record a simple autobiography.

Any one of these can be filled in by each author at their convenience and upon completion either returned or loaned to the family historian. Any interest in family history generated in the process would be a huge bonus.



## **Connecting Branches**

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

**Donna Schulze - Researching Tracy and Laughlin Families**

**Tom Seleski – Researching Strzelecki/Strzeleske/Borowiak Families**

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)



## Mailbox

If you have a general genealogy question or comment 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.

## Mailbox



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

## **History of Financial Crisis By Richard H. Lee**

Our current Federal financial budget crisis is soon to be decided but is not something new. Our nation's financial problems go back to 1790 when after the revolutionary war was over we had accumulated debts and borrowed money to fund the war and pay the troops. Alexander Hamilton came to the rescue and set up a federal bank with his experience at the Bank of New York. "He would fill the critical role of Washington's chief financial advisor in money matters."

A series of excise taxes were passed but with argument from congressmen and when a stiff excise tax was put on whiskey, there was a rebellion that required Washington to take 13,000 troops out to enforce the new law.

I reviewed this history and another crisis in the late 1890s in my excellent reference book, "Don't Know Much About History" by Kenneth C. Davis, Due to overbuilding, under-consumption, and low demand for steel, there was a financial panic starting in 1893. J.P. Morgan stepped in and was able to lend money to the federal government in exchange for bonds, which they later profited from. For a while it looked like the worker's party was going to win the election of 1896 led by William Jennings Bryan, but Republicans outspent Bryan by \$7 million to \$300,000 and convince voters they had the answer. With eastern industrialist's support like Peabody, Republicans held tight

control of business and labor, until Teddy Roosevelt came into office.

The low demand for steel was greatly changed when Carnegie built the first bridge across the Mississippi River with steel and showed that new things could be done.

Office buildings and hotels called "skyscrapers" began to be built in the cities and Chicago was among the first to use steel for such large buildings. At Carnegie Steel between 1889 and 1899 annual production of steel rose from 332,111 to 2,663,412 tons.

## ***TITANIC EXHIBIT – COME SEE!***





## **SOCIETY NEWS**

*By Susan Donahue*

### **IN SYMPATHY:**

The Lemont Area Historical Society would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following who will always remain alive in the memories of those who have loved them:

**SALOME (SALLY) MARKIEWICZ**  
(Matriarch of Markiewicz Family)

**EVELYN MORRISON**  
(Matriarch & Mother of Patricia Camalliere, LAHS Bd & Lib. Vol)

**NORINE HANRAHAN NEEF**  
(Aunt of Natalie & John Quinn)

**CLARITA BOLDT**  
(Sister of Joy Kure and Aunt of James Boldt)

**J.D. BEAVERS**  
(Husband of Norma Beavers)

**EILEEN CATTONI**  
(Matriarch of Cattoni Family, LAHS Library Vol, former Lemont Planning Com.)

**SISTER OF EMILY CHRISTIAN**

### **GET WELL WISHES:**

We send out get well wishes to Life Members Ellen Davy and Joanne Pick. Also to Art Garibay and Library Vol. Charlene Counter. Very happy to see Board Member Carol Garibay returning after being on the sick list.

### **OLD PHOTOS**

The Society is always looking for ways to increase our photograph archives and we would appreciate it if you have any photos dealing with Lemont you could make copies of or have us make copies of them. In the most perfect scenario the people in the photos would be identified even so old school pixs, etc.

Recently John Quinn connected with Lemont Patch electronic news to showcase some of our photos to give people not only an idea of what we have, what Lemont used to look like, but hopefully to encourage people to order and/or donate to us copies of their photos. They are our window to the past.

### **LAST WEDDING OF 2012**

Many of you have mentioned that from time to time you would like to hear about our weddings, etc. This past year was rather remarkable in that beside weddings we had a wake, Memorial Service, and a Baptism.

The last wedding in 2012 was on December 22. One of the more unusual aspects – lets say – we don't have this often was that the bride's best friend was her pet dog, Ozzie. He was very well behaved and loved to be the center of attention. Part of me thinks he thought the celebration was in his honor. Needless to say I did take pictures which I will share with you.

Another aspect which was nice was that they kept their rehearsal dinner and reception local. Of course, I know White Fence Farm isn't really Lemont any more, but to me it will always be. Their rehearsal dinner was at White Fence Farm, where the bride had been taken often by her parents since childhood and the reception was at CogHill. (See Photos on diff. page).



## *STEPPING BACK IN TIME*

*By Susan Donahue*

### **Completion of Post Office Research**

#### **The Lemont, May 27, 1937**

Wood floors laid. 4 electric clocks installed. Building now enclosed. Windows and doors are now all in. Some difficulty has been experienced with water in the basement and the engineer will decide if any faulty construction and installation done. With water in the basement it is expected that a roaring furnace fire maybe necessary to dry out the building for the painters and decorators. It is hoped that there is no leak that must be remedied before construction can proceed.

#### **The Lemont , June 24, 1937**

Joseph P. Elston, Chief Supervisor in charge of construction of the new Post Office building stated positively today that the Lemont postal staff and supplies would be in house one week from today on July 1.

“I will have the building sufficiently completed to turn over to the new Postmaster Shafransky on June 30 without fail. Sooner but contractor ran into difficulties on another job and was prevented from pushing the local building. as rapidly as might have been done by June 20 as I predicted. If building is ready for business by Thursday morning, July 1.”

Final painting of trim, install radiators and finish installation of boiler done.

#### **The Lemont, July 1, 1937**

With the new federal Post Office completed and accepted by the government, service will be discontinued at the old building. (Old P.O. where Brandt Cellars used to be).

#### **The Lemont, July 8, 1937**

Dedication of new Lemont Post Office confirmed from Postal Department in Washington. Parade held from Village Hall July 4, 1937.

#### **The Lemont, July 27, 1937**

New French shades hung from window and copper screens outer glass windows wired inside to prevent breaking. Final inspections were made this week of new Post Office by the government as correct and complete according to the floor plans and specs and Engineer Joseph P. Elston, who supervised the construction was complimented for his fidelity to detail.

After final inspection of the building last week when it was turned over to the Treasury Department Monday the inspections of the boiler and electrical work were given a through test.



**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM 12/22/12 WEDDING**



## 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, Patricia Camalliere,

Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, John Quinn,

Doris Peterman, and, 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, Grant Writing

#### Human & Financial Resources

Richard Homerding, Fundraising

#### 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

## 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**

THANK YOU TO:  
ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS  
VILLAGE OF LEMONT  
LEMONT TOWNSHIP  
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

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 issues. Issues are mailed or emailed to 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, 306 Lemont St, 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.