



**CROSTOWN BASEBALL RAFFLE  
DRAWING  
MAY 10 - 6:30pm.  
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT**

Time is getting close to the Drawing for those two baseball tickets for both premier baseball parks of Cellular Field and the venerable Wrigley Field and parking.

The Board is looking forward to the Raffle and seeing who the lucky winner is --- why it could be you. If you haven't returned your completed tickets please do so. This is one of the ways that we are able to maintain this venerable, historic building not only for us but for future generations. It always needs some TLC.

**TAG DAYS – JUNE 14 & 15<sup>TH</sup>  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**

We really need your help – please step up and donate your time to help us on Tag Days. We can't do it without YOU!

**LAHS NOW HAS A FACEBOOK  
PAGE – CHECK IT OUT!!**

# 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)

**MAY NEWSLETTER  
MAY 10-6:30PM.  
HONORING THE 150<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
EMANICIPATION  
DECLARATION  
&  
CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT  
&  
2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CROSTOWN  
CLASSIC BASEBALL RAFFLE  
DRAWING!!!**

**CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT –  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm.  
& PICNIC**

Come and join us for the Civil War Program with an re-enactment along with the showing of a video of the Civil War Memorial dedication. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that event. A picnic and food will be served. **Admission Adults:\$7  
Children 10 under:\$3.00**

The theme is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Declaration. Those who lived during that time were tested in the true meaning of America – the values that united them won out.

Today we too are tested – I think Lincoln would be proud of our resolve even in the horror of senseless violence we never waived.

**Civil War Picnic  
In our Back Yard**

Friday, May 10 - 6:30 p.m.

**Lemont Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street**

Picnic fare & beverages,  
Civil War Re-enactors  
Admission:  
\$7.00 Adults - \$3.00 Children 10 and under

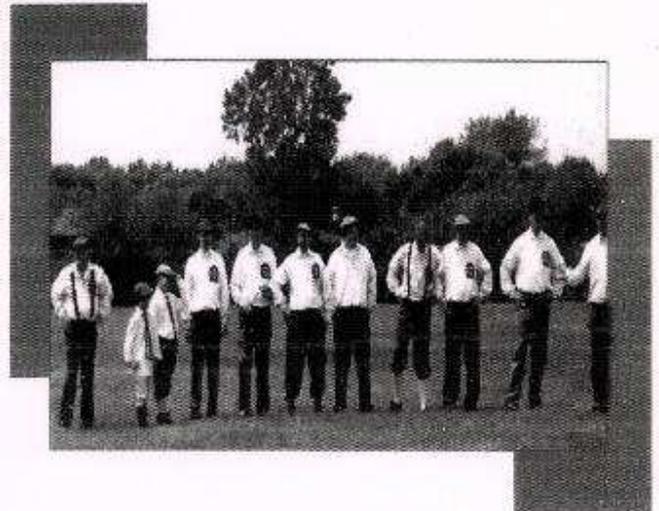
Special Guests:  
Lemont Quarrymen  
Vintage Base Ball Team

At 7:00 p.m. We'll Announce the Winner  
of the  
2012 Crosstown Classic Raffle

Raffle Tickets Available at  
Lemont Historical Society,  
Smokey Row Antiques & Tom's Place  
\$5.00 each/5 for \$20.00

**LEMONT  
QUARRYMEN**

VINTAGE BASEBALL  
TEAM  
1858 BASEBALL RULES



Enjoy the Game of Base Ball as it was  
Played Before the Civil War

**LEMONT QUARRYMEN HOME GAMES**

May 11 - 1:00 pm

June 22 - 1:00 pm (Location TBA)

July 20 - 1:00 pm

August 4 - 1:00 pm

Covington Park - Covington Drive & 127<sup>th</sup> Street

**FREE ADMISSION**

*Plenty of Parking and Refreshments Available*

*Sponsored by the Lemont Historical Society (630) 257-2972*

**Note: May 11 game at 1pm. Field  
Changed. Please call 630-257-2972 or  
visit us at [www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)**

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



Dear Members,

May 1, 2013

Spring is so busy with the end of the school year, Communions, Graduations, getting our gardens in order; we barely have time to breathe! But hopefully, you will be able to take some time to enjoy some of our spring/summer events.

Our Crosstown Classic Raffle drawing is approaching quickly. The Board would really like to thank you for all of your support in getting tickets sold. Please make sure we have your entry for the gas card if you sold more than 20 tickets. The winner will be drawn at our Civil War Re-enactment and Picnic to be held Friday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. Again, I would like to thank John Quinn and Rick Homerding for all their efforts in making this raffle a success!

The Lemont Quarrymen have been warming up for their season and their first game will be on May 11. Let's try to show some ginger and get out and support them. It is always a relaxing and fun afternoon!

I would really like to thank our Board Member, Pat Camalliere, and Nick Mokolke, of Cog Hill, for the fabulous job they did at our March program. It was too bad that more of you were not able to join us as it was a very informative and enjoyable evening. I am even thinking of taking golf lessons now!

Also, we are calling all artists, antique and collectible dealers, and crafters to participate as vendors in our Street Fair on September. If you know anyone that is interested, please have them contact me at [smokeyrow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smokeyrow@sbcglobal.net) or 630-888-5259, or they pick up a registration form from Susan at the Church.

The Board and I wish you and your families all the very best for a fun and safe summer!

Best Regards, Sue

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### **Lemont Area Historical Society**

**In the Old Stone Church**

**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: 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, Pat Camalliere, Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman, John Quinn, 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

## Genealogy Corner



*By Barb Bannon*

### It Is What It Is

I don't remember exactly when the family history bug bit me, but I have been doing research for a very, very long time. There wasn't an aha moment, it was more like being slowly reeled in by the hobby. Initially there were two old tintype portraits that I saw for the first time, then the name Maria Hostert, a relative I had not known of which sparked an interest in finding out more.

Eventually I started asking my parents, aunts and uncles for names of any relatives they could remember, just jotting them down with no real intention of doing anything formal with them. In various conversations here and there I would mention a name and one thing led to another and I found myself accumulating segments of different branches of the family.

From one relative I received a hand written list of just names, a cousin from my husband's family had typed names with dates and locations, still another was compiled by my mother's cousin from a trip to Belgium and yet another came in the form of a hand bound genealogy scrapbook complete with photos. All of these histories were discovered by their own unique chain of events, like a chance meeting of a relative on my father's side at the cemetery which lead to a treasure of family history and guidance in the how-tos of research. Or walking into the Orland Park Village Center for a drivers license renewal and seeing two photos of log cabins with the owners names, Jacob and Bernard Hostert, I later discovered were Maria's brothers. The cabins, relocated to Orland Park to be used as museums, had been saved from becoming scrap lumber by Loretta, genealogist in the

Hostert family and author of a family history now in the library of congress.

Another of these coincidences happened in 1994, it was a Mirkes family reunion I heard of through a cousin. The reunion was being held in Germany and not being able to attend, I followed it closely and obtained a family history book made available to the 300 attendees it was in German. Translating it on the internet, I found there were approximately five hundred names, divided into five main lines of Mirkes traced back to Theodor Mirkes in 1643, a total of 350 years and 11 generations.

Included in this family history was the unbelievable story of Mathias (Metty) Mirkes who was part of the resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of Luxembourg and was arrested in Jan, 1943 and placed in a concentration camp. In March of 1945 upon the liberation of Germany he was released and reunited with his family. In 1993 at the age of 84 he was awarded the Resistance Memorial Cross for his part in the resistance movement.

The research of a family's history undoubtedly uncovers a number of stories, some heroic events, others accounts of everyday life but all are the stories of our ancestor's struggles and accomplishments. I discovered another of these colorful stories a few years ago while doing research for one of the requests the Society received. I was studying the microfilm of our oldest newspapers from the late 1890's and a line jumped out at me; Mirkes' place "The Comique Theater" was being closed by authorities. At that time I only found a for sale ad for the Comique Theater building on north Stephen Street. As always happens my research gets put aside for the usual life events but having been prompted by an article about LAHS own Sue & Gary Roy's Smokey Row Inn and Antiques and their determination to keep history alive, I'm determined to pickup the search again and find the whole story.

Like the “Wild Wild West” our town went through a comparable period of growth and lawlessness that we may not like to mention but that is a part of the composition of Lemont none the less. The history of Lemont cannot be told without mentioning the building of the canal and the mining of the quarries; these are major elements in the development of our town. But along with these events, came Smokey Row with its brothels, gambling houses, drinking, assaults etc. and as with Chicago and Al Capone, this risqué era is not the only past we have, but is a part of our story to be told. Don’t be the editor of your family’s history, tell the entire story.

***Genealogy research: Bringing forgotten stories back to life!***



### **Connecting Branches**

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

**Mary King - researching Shurpiet (Szurpiet) family**

**Russ Masino - researching Surpit (Surpitski) 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)



### **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.

## **A Lesson on Slavery from the Scriptures** **By Richard H. Lee**

The story in the bible book of Exodus of how the slaves in Egypt were delivered or allowed to leave and be free was not without battles and bloodshed. Moses was sent to appeal to the Pharaoh or leader of Egypt but repeatedly denied until plagues were sent from God to convince them it was God’s will. But Pharaoh finally let them go with the 10<sup>th</sup> plague of death of all the firstborn in Egypt.

Even after the Hebrews were allowed to leave and go to a new land, the Egyptian army was sent to bring them back but drowned by the Red Sea with a powerful miracle of Moses. The Passover was the miracle of protection from the angel of death as blood was smeared on the doors of the believing Hebrews. By blood we are delivered and it became a sign for them and part of their worship ceremonies.

Release from slavery results in bloodshed frequently and is never easy. It also results in long-lasting resentment and hostility towards those who push for it. Jesus preached release from slavery with emphasis on the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. We don’t need more laws on the books or police to enforce them but lawmakers with compassion and mercy.

### **2012 Pix: General Grant & Nurse**





## **SOCIETY NEWS**

*By Susan Donahue*



### **HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ANGIE TONDINI!!**

The Lemont Area Historical Society and me personally would like to extend a very Happy, Healthy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to you! I guess it is one of the perks of being editor to wish members a Happy Birthday and especially gratifying since she happens to be one of my cousins.

### **GET WELL WISHES**

We extend get well wishes to our members: Joanne Pick, Arthur Garibay, and Ellen Davey. We wish them a return to good health.

**MOST MEMBERSHIPS WERE UP IN MARCH PLEASE CHECK AND IF YOU HAVEN'T YET RENEWED PLEASE DO SO --- WE NEED YOU!!!**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

We are grateful that Gail Ahrens, George Butkovich Fam, Claire Cimino, Emily Christian, Charlene Counter, Susan Donahue, Greg Forzley Fam, Mirian Giebel, Walt Kos Fam, MaryAnn Mahar, Doris Peterman, John Quinn, Maureen Rogus and Angeline Tondini renewed.

### **THANK YOU!!**

We wish to thank Sue & Gary Roy's daughter, Lauren, for setting up our Facebook page.

### **"HISTORY OF GOLF" PROGRAM**

We thank Richard Lee for these photos he took during the presentation.

We learned a great deal of the "History of Golf in Lemont" with some amusing stories sprinkled in. It was enjoyable and well attended.

### **SPEAKERS**



**Patricia Camalliere**



**Nick Molkele "CogHill" Manager**



*STEPPING BACK IN  
TIME*  
*By Susan Donahue*

**“Emancipation Proclamation”  
January 1, 1863**

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 by Lincoln was a very bold move by him with the fierce divisions within our nation at the time. It did not eliminate slavery completely but it was a major step that depending on your point of view is still considered a work in progress by some.

Here is material gathered from the Internet to refresh what we learned from school:

The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free." Despite this expansive wording, the Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the Union, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union military victory.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. Moreover, the Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The

Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their insistence that the war for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

I found this poem read by the author to mark and celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation becoming law. It allows us some insight into the view of the feelings of people who were considered nothing but property to be bought and sold.

**JANUARY 1, 1863 CHICAGO  
“QUINN CHAPEL”  
POEM BY J. STANLEY**

**“WHAT IS A SLAVE?”**

**“Oh! What is a slave? ‘Tis to tremble  
with dread,  
And bow to the despot an infamous head;  
And when he has spurned thee, to beg  
and implore,  
that he in his kindness would trample  
thee more.  
‘Tis to gaze in despair on the sun’s living  
ray,  
Like a thing without soul or a creature of  
clay;  
To lose all affection and sympathy dear,  
All passions of man – save the passion of  
fear. “**

**Sidenotes:** 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment United States  
Colored Troops with a company of school  
boys carrying a banner:

**“We Know No Masters But Ourselves”**

Reported when they were asked if they  
knew Lincoln they replied:

**“No, we don’t know him, but we know  
that God send him.”**

**Lemont Area Historical Society  
Membership**

**Student -----\$10.00**  
**Senior Citizen:\$10.00 -----**  
**Individual: \$15.00 -----**  
**Family: \$25.00 -----**  
**Corporate:\$50.00 -----**  
**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**



**2012 Raffle Winner Bernie & Pres. Roy  
:**

**CIVIL WAR PICNIC 2012**



**Guests at Picnic + Quarrymen**

**ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS**  
**VILLAGE OF LEMONT**  
**LEMONT TOWNSHIP**  
**LEMONT PARK DISTRICT**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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.