



**FRIENDLY REMINDER
NON – LIFE LAHS
MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE
MARCH 1st**

**JANUARY 28 – 7PM.
“HISTORIC HANGOUTS IN
LEMONT” AT TOM’S PLACE
110 STEPEHN STREET**

Come join us for a fun, entertaining and enjoyable evening at Tom’s Place. Bring your memorabilia. It will be a lively evening sharing with old and new friends your stories and by the end of the evening you will have made more memories. (See Pres. Letter)

Guest Speakers: Milan Laketa (Tom’s Place); Alex Wojchiechowski (Al & Jacks); O’Briens (Carousel) + Gary Krueger

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
RSVP BY FEBRUARY 14**

We so appreciate all of you who through the year come through for us in so many ways. We could not do it without you. Let us show you by this small token our appreciation. Come!!

(Menu in Pres. Letter)



Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
lemonthistorical@gmail.com
www.lemonthistorical.org

**January 2014 Edition
January 28- “HISTORIC
HANGOUTS IN LEMONT” - TOM’S
PLACE 7PM.
February 16- Volunteer Appreciation
Lunch – 1pm. RSVP by Feb 14
March 8 – Kickoff of Crosstown
Baseball Rivalry Raffle**

CONGRAULATIONS ALEX!!



We want to first express our thank you to those members who baked for our Christmas event and also participated in our Art Raffle of Joyce Affelt’s painting. The winner of the coveted prize was Alex (Alexandria) Rose. She was very happy to have won.

Presidents Message



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 2014. We really appreciate everything you do for the Society. I am very grateful to all of you for the success of our 2013 events and I am looking forward to an exciting 2014!

Hopefully, you will be able to join us on **Tuesday, January 28, at Tom's Place at 7pm. for our January program, "Historic Hangouts in Lemont."** Milan Laketa, Alex Wojciechowsk, the O'Briens, and Gary Krueger will be our guest speakers. Please feel free to bring any stories and memorabilia that you would like to share. Chili will be served.

On **FEBRUARY 16 AT 1PM.** we will be hosting our **"Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon."** Just to make sure that we have enough food, please **RSVP by February 14** by calling **630-257-2972 or 630-888-5259.**

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Menu

Appetizers
Tossed Salad
Baked Ham
Cheesy Potato Casserole
Mashed Sweet Potatoes
Pennsylvania Dutch Green Bean Casserole
Rolls & Butter
Dessert
Wine
Coffee & Soft Punch

On March 8th, 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 this year. 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!

Also **March 1st** is our membership renewal date. Please do not forget to renew your memberships. Maybe you have a friend or relative who would really enjoy the resources the Historical Society has to offer. Please tell them about us if they do not already know!

Looking forward to seeing you in 2014!

Best Regards,

Sue

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

Lost Photos & Heirlooms

Family History research has found countless relatives that I never met. Along the way there have been many names and locations but not an equal number of photos. The majority of photos I am fortunate enough to have, come from immediate family members, supplemented by those acquired from new found family.

Every time I add a name to the family tree I try to imagine what they may have looked like and a lot of questions come to mind. Who in our family has their physical characteristics? Have they passed down their hair color, their facial features or body structure? Some vital record documents give descriptions but there is just something about seeing expressions captured in a photograph.

There are a number of online resources that try to reunite individuals with photos. Genealogists create some of these sites, and others come from collector markets for photographic antiques. Some sites have the ability to post a wish list of lost images. You can browse by surname or location at www.familyoldphotos.com. Another very good site www.DeadFred.com has many ways of searching and as a bonus, anyone finding a photo of a direct ancestor owned by the archive will receive it free. A search can even be done without a name just by using a location, date range, type or even photographer.

The most useful site I found, for even more than just photos, is one I stumbled upon a few weeks ago when I purchased "Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing" a book about famous family connections written by

Megan Smolenyak, considered to be the "Indiana Jones of Genealogy". She is the author of a number of books including "Who do You Think You Are" and she also is a consultant for the TV show of the same name.

She has done research for the President; discovering Barack Obama's Irish ancestry and his relation to Brad Pitt and has also found a link between politicians Al Sharpton and Strom Thurmond to name just a couple of her famous discoveries. Reading her book led me to her webpage www.honoringourancestors.com and one of her favorite topics - Orphan Heirloom Rescues. If you fill out a form on the site with as much information as possible about the item or photo you have she will attempt to locate the rightful owner. Due to the volume of inquiries to her site she cannot tackle every case, but I am hopeful she will help with a mystery I stumbled upon.

I am drawn to old documents or photos in antique shops or at garage sales and I can't help but wonder if there is a family member looking for a long lost item or a relatives image. Usually I will examine it hoping to discover a name written somewhere; it must be the genealogist's curiosity in me. A couple of years ago I was in need of an oval frame for an old photograph, and after a lengthy search I discovered one at a yard sale. The seller had no memory of where it had been acquired. In it was a photo of a bride and groom but there was no name or identifying information on the photo. I purchased it for the frame but I just couldn't bring myself to dispose of the photo. I am hoping that finding this website will help in getting this couple home.

To read interesting articles about Megan Smolenyak's genealogical adventures visit www.MeganSmolenyak.com. The website is also a helping hand for family historians in solving their brick wall or mystery. She provides a forum to share a story that may be causing many a sleepless night.



Connecting Branches

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

David Muszynski researching the Muszynski 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

A "Thank You" goes out to John Kettman for donating the Rev. Candidus Mertens family group photo from the 1905 ordination.

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.



Norma Johnson & Barb Bannon

GREATEST WAGES

By Richard H. Lee

This is the 100th anniversary of the announcement of Henry Ford to pay \$5 a day to his workers, about double what they had been making for 9 hours a day. This became a catalyst for big changes in business and set the stage for the Model T to become the automobile the middle class could afford. Rivals called Ford a fool or damned socialist but he had his reasons that turned out to work very well.

From discussions with his friend Thomas Edison about boosting efficiency and the assembly-line method of production, he decided this was one way of allowing his workers to eventually buy a car and have a continual supply of men eager to work. Employee turnover was a serious problem due to the monotonous kind of work so doubling pay enabled Ford to recruit and retain the best workers, giving greater speed and quality. If other companies had matched his pay scale his advantage would have been lost. He even set up his own housing and shops so workers could save more money.

Ford did not believe in a "living wage" which is an issue today to lift workers out of poverty, but his methods boosted production to 8000 cars a day and cut the cost from \$850 to \$300 per car. Raising the minimum wage today could be an investment to increase worker satisfaction and ability to spend more money. In the Bible there is a parable where Jesus tells a story of some workers given various amounts of responsibility and reward. In Matthew 25 the parable of the talents or Servants we find, ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' I'm sure that is what you would like to hear from the Lord for our service here on earth and not being a "worthless servant."



SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

SYMPATHY

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Ray Ferry. Mr. Ferry was a faithful volunteer until recent years. Always a gentleman

PICTURES 2013

I thought it might be fun to include some photos from 2013..

CHRISTMAS 2013



ST. PATRICK CHOIR



ST. ALPHONSUS CHOIR



DORIS, SANTA, & JEN

BAPTISM 2013





*STEPPING BACK IN
TIME*
By Susan Donahue

The program this January is on “Historic Hangouts in Lemont.” Some of them were infamous and some famous due to the era of “Smokey Row.” In general these establishments were and are run by hard working, decent businessmen.

I thought I would start out with a family story – like you sincerely knew there wouldn’t be at least one. Anyway, Pam Schmitz’s (LAHS Life Member) grandfather was “Honest John.” His tavern was what is now Main Inn. He was my great uncle. His wife was my grandmother’s sister. He was my dad’s godfather at baptism. My dad was a pallbearer at his funeral.

Now on to the story that was told me by my dad’s oldest sister when she visited us. After the farm house had been destroyed my grandparents and their children moved into Lemont and rented a home on Talcott. My Great- Uncle Tim, grandfather’s brother, came into town to visit one particular time and both grandfather and he decided to go to a local tavern for a short one. Grandfather, of course because of family ties, said, “Let’s go to “Honest John’s.” The reply was, “Dan is also in town.” “Oh, well then lets go to a saloon on the opposite end of town.” “Sounds good.”

You see Great Uncle Dan was a hard working famer who also liked his spirits and he did not end up a happy drunk. His loyalty to the family was, of course, to go to his in-laws tavern sounds good until you realize that “Honest John” was John Povalish, Polish, and Great Uncle Dan was a very proud Irishman. As the evening would wear on he just couldn’t help himself to brag about his nationality which the other patrons, of course, who were mostly Polish

took offense to and so inevitably a fight would break out and spill out into the street. Glass and chairs could be broken as well as faces smashed. He never got seriously injured and when approached about it later couldn’t understand what all the fuss was about. “Honest John”, mostly because of my grandfather, did not ban him from coming back.

“HONEST JOHN’S SALOON”



Now on to the more recent past as we were growing up. Each family had their favorite taverns where they would meet their friends, have a few drinks and make it a social evening. In my parents case it was, “Nick’s Tavern” long before my cousin married into the family and took over the establishment. I can see Mr. Pappas, “Nick” behind the bar when I was little with his crisp white shirt and always sporting a bow tie. He would make me a small bowl of chilli with oyster crackers. This only happened when my parents couldn’t get a babysitter, which was not that often.

I know that the tavern owners had a network and if anyone got loud, or there was trouble brewing the patron was asked to leave and subsequently a phone call would be made to the other tavern owners as in one case, “Nick, be on the look out so and so has been drinking heavily and he tried to get into my bar and I refused him and I heard him say

something about going to yours.” Nick went around the bar and stood in the doorway and sure enough a loud, boisterous man tried to enter and the confrontation went like this, “Go home, you aren’t coming into my bar.” There were protests and it was the same, “I will call the police if you don’t leave. You spent your money some place else and they let you leave drunk and now you think you can come here and get sick – sleep it off – no way– are you walking?” “Yes.” “The fresh air will do you good – now turn around and leave.” He did. Some at the bar kept a look out just in case but he never came back.

I also remember when thinking of what to write about a rather humorous incident that happened involving the Pool Hall on Canal Street.

A group of us from grade school had gotten together and had planned different things to do like walk across the old bridges and walk up to St. Patrick’s Cemetery. When we got back we still had some time before we had to be back home and we were thirsty and a little hungry so as we walked down Canal Street we saw a sign at the Pool Hall, which advertised they were selling ice cream in cones. After the initial surprise we debated as to whether or not we should go in and how happy our parents would be when learning about it. We laughed and dared each other who would go in and first. We ended up inside a rather dark environment and there were people in the back playing pool, who stopped and looked at this curious site. The man behind the freezers asked us what we wanted and we ordered up our cones, paid, and walked out still amazed that we had just been in the Pool Hall. We also weren’t quite sure about eating the cones but we abandoned any anxiety and discovered the ice cream was very good. We also decided telling

our parents might not be the best idea so until now it has been a well kept secret.

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 ,Patricia Camalliere, Carol Garibay,
Richard Homerding, Daniel Mitchell, Doris Peterman,
John Quinn,Wm. Uznanski

Committees:

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Gary Roy, Susan Roy

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Oral Histories, Photographs

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Rose Yates
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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

Cornerstone Newsletter

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 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 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. Opinions expressed are those of the author. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials see the membership application.

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

Lemont Street Fair 2013

