



**“CROSTOWN BASEBALL  
RIVALRY RAFFLE”  
DRAWING MAY 18, 2014  
\$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20**

Know most of us are looking forward to spring and summer and all it promises. One of the things that is definitely American is Baseball.

We will again have our “Crosstown Baseball Rivalry Raffle.” We have two box seat tickets at the friendly confines of Cubs Wrigley Field and Sox Cellular Field + parking.

Tickets are enclosed. If you need more they will be available at the museum and Smokey Row. Dates of games yet to be announced.

**ATTENTION:IF SOMEONE IS UPGRADING THEIR COMPUTER AND HAS WINDOWS 7 AND WOULD LIKE TO DONATE IT TO LAHS – WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL!**

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439  
[lemontahs@gmail.com](mailto:lemontahs@gmail.com)  
[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)

**MARCH EDITION 2014  
PROGRAM: BANK ROBBERIES IN  
LEMONT – “THE VAULT” 7PM.  
308 Canal Street  
TAG DAYS: JUNE 13 & 14**

**WINNERS OF RAFFLE**

We want to congratulate the following winners of the raffle. We would also be remiss if we did not thank all of you who participated in making it a success.

**WINNERS OF SUPERBOWL  
RAFFLE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter: John Quinn**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Larry Levine**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Betty Slad**

**Blackhawks Box Seats: Rose Yates  
(Returned tickets for SILENT  
AUCTION)**

**WINNER OF SILENT AUCTION  
BLACKHAWK BOX SEAT  
TICKETS  
AIMEE PEARSON**

**FRIENDLY REMINDER  
MARCH IS WHEN MEMBERSHIP  
DUES ARE RENEWED!!!**

**Lemont Historical Society Presents...**

**"STICK  
'EM  
UP!"**

**A flashback of  
Historic Lemont Heists**



**March 25, 2014 - 7:00 pm  
The Vault Café & Bar  
308 Canal Street - Lemont**

**Join the Lemont Historical Society as we visit the site of  
a historic heist on April 10, 1929 when 3 armed  
crooks robbed Lemont's First National Bank vault at gunpoint.  
The vault is still in use, but not for cash!  
Hear about this historic Lemont heist and more.**

**Free Admission**

**For more info: (630) 257-2972 or [www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)**

***President's Message .Best Regards, Sue***



**Hosts Sue & Gary  
“February Volunteer  
Appreciation Luncheon”**

March 1, 2014

Dear Members,

Hopefully, you have all survived this very challenging winter that we have experienced! Although it has kept us busy shoveling, scraping and making sure the pipes do not freeze, I have to say that I enjoyed some of the most beautiful winter scenes I have ever seen! Hopefully, spring is around the corner!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making our Super Bowl Raffle a success. We cleared almost \$3,000 in less than two months. Unfortunately, with the gas bills for the Old Stone Church reaching over \$400 per month and the constant need to have the walks shoveled during this brutal winter, it will dwindle quickly.

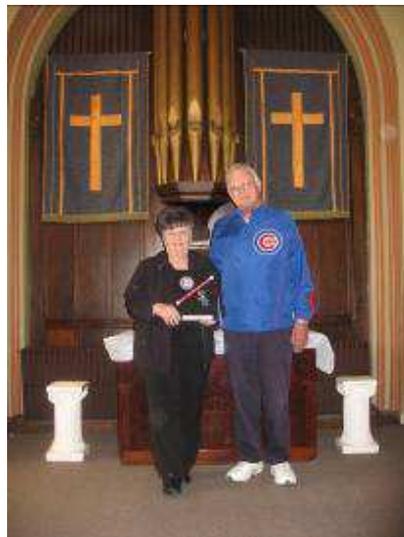
Saturday was the kick-off of our Crosstown Classic Fundraiser. You all will be receiving two raffle books again this year. We are asking, if you are able, to please

purchase one book for yourself and possibly selling the other book to other family members, friends or co-workers. If you sell 20 tickets your name will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 gas card. The Historical Society is struggling financially, and any help you could give us would be greatly appreciated. The winners will be drawn at our Civil War Picnic and Quarrymen game to be held Sunday, May 18, at 1:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 25, our General Membership Meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m., will be held at The Vault. After a short meeting, we will be exploring the bank heists of Lemont’s past. Please feel free to bring any photos, memorabilia or story that you may have relating to any Lemont bank robbery. We hope to see you there!

The Board and I wish you and your families all the very best for a pleasant Spring and a very Happy and Blessed Easter!

Best regards,  
Sue



**Here are the winners from the  
“Crosstown Baseball Raffle 2013” – this  
year it could be you, but you got to be in  
it to win it!**

## Genealogy Corner



**By Barb Bannon**

I read this article a while ago and remember thinking that I may have been unduly critical of the records I have searched when finding many errors. Keeping in mind the ideas suggested here, I believe I will be taking another look at some previous searches and try using my imagination to improve the results.

The following article is from the Ancestry Daily News and is (c) MyFamily.Com. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the Ancestry Daily News is available at <http://www.ancestry.com>.

**Michael John Neill**

### **“From Their Mouth to Your Computer Screen”**

While it would be nice for our ancestors' information to instantly appear on the computer screen, most of us know that it simply does not work that way. This week we take a look at the steps that data took to get from our ancestors' mouth to our computer monitor. Being aware of these steps is crucial to effectively searching for ancestors in transcriptions, indexes, and other finding aids.

#### **From the Ancestor's Mouth**

Few of us were present when our ancestor gave the answers to the census taker or the records clerk. There is no way for us to know exactly what question came out of the clerk's mouth and how this question was interpreted by our ancestor, particularly if he or she could barely understand the language the records clerk used. Even if the ancestor

understood the question perfectly, there are additional considerations. Did the person answering questions have a German accent? Did she have an Irish brogue? Did he insert a guttural sound into the name that might have been interpreted as an extra letter? Did your ancestor have difficulty speaking? Did your ancestor fail to give complete answers? Did your ancestor even really understand the questions, even if they spoke the same language?

#### **To the Clerk's Ear**

Did the clerk ask for clarification or just spell a name the way it sounded? Did he even care if he spelled the name correctly? Did he spell your Danish ancestor's last name the way a Swede would spell it because many other immigrants to the area were Swedish and not Danish? Did the clerk say the question in a way that was confusing to your ancestor? Did the clerk have difficulty understanding your ancestor and wrote down his best guess instead of clarifying the answer with your ancestor? Was the census taker a German native who insisted on spelling even the English language last names the "German way?" Did the records clerk put down "Germany" as the place of birth because that was easier than writing down Wildbrechtrode, Thuringen, Germany?

#### **To the Official Document**

Did the clerk have handwriting that was very flourished and difficult to read? Was his handwriting sloppy? Did his letter "u" look like a letter "n?" Did he use an ink or a pencil that has faded over time? Was the document written on low-quality paper? Is there an inkblot right over the most crucial word in the entire document?

#### **To Be Filed Away**

Many of the documents used by genealogists were not originally stored under the most ideal conditions for long-term preservation. Some are still not stored under such conditions. Extreme heat or cold, mildew, water, insects, or other environmental

factors could easily have impacted the condition of the records used to create an index or a finding aid. Bottoms of pages may have worn away after years of use. Pages may have fallen out and gotten lost as the binding of the book deteriorated beyond repair. Does the transcription of finding aid you are using make it clear whether such issues were encountered when the records were read? Were original documents folded, creating an illegible line of text that invariably is the most important line in the entire document.

#### [To the Transcriptionist's Eye](#)

Is the indexer using the original document or a microfilm copy? Is that microfilmed copy the only copy and a poor copy at that? Is the transcriptionist familiar with the last names of the area or the language the individuals listed in the records likely spoke? I recently helped someone find their family in the 1880 census only and realized that the last name of Pundt had been transcribed as Bennet. When the microfilm was viewed, it was easy to see how the interpretation was made. I might have thought it was Bennet myself. The handwriting was faint, the "B" was difficult to read and the other letters before the final "t" were not clear. I would not have read it as Pundt, but it was (based upon the first names that all matched the family group of the researcher).

#### [To the Database Entry](#)

Those who key in data occasionally make a mistake. For this reason, vary which search box you leave empty when performing online searches. Use wildcard operators and Soundex options when available. And if the records are not impossible to search one at a time, consider a manual search of the information page by page. You never know what you might discover.

#### [To the Researcher's Search Technique](#)

Are you considering all the possible variant spellings? Is there a chance that you do not understand completely how the search interface works? Are you assuming

something about your ancestor that is not true and is this assumption hindering your search? If an online database is being used, are as few search boxes as possible being filled in? The more boxes that are completed when performing a search, the more narrow the search and the greater the chance the desired entry is not located.

Failure to find the desired entry in an online finding aid is not always the fault of the researcher. Sometimes our ancestor is just not in the records. Sometimes he gave misleading information. Sometimes the clerk did not care how the name was spelled. Sometimes the keeper of the records was not concerned with preserving the records. Sometimes the transcriptionist makes a mistake. It is those sometimes that get us in trouble. Think about all the steps that information took from your ancestor's mouth to your computer screen. Remembering these steps may help you to keep your failed searches in perspective.

#### [Connecting Branches Mailbox](#)



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

Mary Boza/Oberhart - Zygmant/Sigman family

Mary Brashears - Peter N. & Louise (Seiler) Poppelreiter family

Charmaine Drafke - Drafke family

Jerome Steinitz - William Bosiacki family



If you are doing research and would like to contact us leave a message at the Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to [lemontahs@gmail.com](mailto:lemontahs@gmail.com)

**NOTE: GENEALOGY RESEARCH FEES INCREASED:**

**INITIAL REQUEST \$30 FOR 2 HRS.**

**ADDITIONAL HOURS: \$10 EACH**

**IND. REQ: \$10 LOOK-UP**

**NON-MEMBER LIBRARY USE:\$10**



## *SOCIETY NEWS*

*By Susan Donahue*

### **IN SYMPATHY:**

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of:

**Norbert Kluge**, who was our oldest Life Member and who was instrumental in having the Lemont Park District become an Athens Marble Club Member.

**George Barry**, Life Member, who was a Sunday Volunteer for many years and also cashier for our Christmas Choral & Cookie Fest.

**Dr. Robert Groselak**, father of our Life Member, Dr. Glenn Groselak...

### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

The Board of Directors was very pleased to see so many of our faithful volunteers here on February 15 for our Volunteer Luncheon. President Sue Roy was instrumental in using her culinary skills to create a delicious meal that all enjoyed. We also received a thank you note from Maureen Rogus about how she enjoyed – a very nice touch that warmed our hearts.

### **TOURS**

We are looking forward to a bus tour coming in May. The Jacob Henry Mansion rep connected with us. The tour group is coming from WI. They said they would like to see among the sites in the area historic churches and the rep from Joliet thought of Lemont, “The Village of Faith” and our historical society. Needless to say, Gail August, Tour Coordinator, was more than happy to oblige and so we are now preparing and editing our scripts as this will be an outside tour of several churches within walking distance of the museum. Keep you posted on how it progresses and turns out.

### **PHOTOS FROM VOL LUNCHEON 2014**



### **LEMONT'S ST. PATRICK PARADE 2014**

#### **LAHS VOLUNTEERS MARCH**





*STEPPING BACK IN  
TIME*  
*By Susan Donahue*

It occurred to me that you might like some background on, "THE VAULT" which we will be visiting on March 25 at 7pm. In order for you to know the whole story come on the 25<sup>th</sup> – it promises to be a fun, entertaining evening for all. .

The establishment is owned and operated by Al, Bach, and Jim Salomani. The name comes from the old vault that is nostalgic and holds a story to unlock. The brothers came in to check out our archival photos and newspapers as they retraced the earlier history of when the building was the FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

You may or may not know that there was a bank robbery in Lemont on April 10, 1929, but they did after hearing stories about it. They felt that this would add some color to the presence of the vault and their establishment.

The time period of 1929 was as you probably already know a rather turbulent one and banks were not high on the list of places to trust with your money. The Depression was looming.

Picture the scene: A quiet street in downtown Lemont and then an approaching car, stopping across from the bank. Two men emerged, one wearing sunglasses and the other carrying a gunny sack. The driver kept the motor running – the two men burst into the bank and out of the gunny sack came the sawed off shotgun and the gunman headed directly to the bank's Vice-President's Scheel's office. The other bandit held a revolver on the tellers, Walter and Emanuel Buskiewicz, and bank customers. No one tried to turn in the bank alarm as it had not been working for some time.

Mr. Scheel was directed out of his office and to the front. In a gruff voice the leader said, "All we want is your money – and we want it in a hurry. So hurry up and get it for us!" All available bills from the open vault were gathered and placed in the gunny sack. It amounted to \$9,000. Frantically the leader demanded, "Where is the rest of the money!"

The teller, Emanuel Buskiewicz replied, "That is all there is . . . . ."  
"Baloney, what kind of bank is this? You could not run a bank on so little money!"

Glancing around he saw the coin machine and emptied it. "I thought you said there wasn't any more." Angrily he demanded, "Where is the rest of it?"

Some pennies were then given to him, but he threw them aside. Then, upset because the amount of money was less than anticipated the bandits removed valuables from the customers and employees. (Watches and jewelry were taken) When one of the tellers was slow to remove his watch, the gunman tore it off, scratching his wrist.

What happened to the customers of the bank? Did the bank robbers get away? What about the getaway car? Did the driver encounter anyone and if so what did he do about it? Where they ever caught? What was the reaction of Lemonters at hearing about the bank robbery?

These questions and more details are awaiting you on March 25<sup>th</sup> at "The Vault."

This story was researched and written in **The Herald** by our late historian Sonia Kallick in 1974. What an incredible resource her writings still are even after all these years. We are forever grateful for the time and dedication she took to chronology all this information of Lemont's rich history.

Her book, "Lemont & Its People" is available for purchase at the museum and "Smokey Row" for \$20.

**Lemont Area Historical Society Membership**

**Student:\$10 -----**  
**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**

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.

**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 rentals of 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 , Pat Camalliere,  
Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Daniel Mitchell,  
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, Richard Homerding

**Web Master**

Paul Froehle