



CROSTOWN CLASSIC RAFFLE
\$5 a Ticket or 5 for \$20

You will be receiving tickets to sell for our Crosstown Raffle. The drawing will be on June 24th at the **Classic Car Show**. Some of us will also be volunteering to be traffic control that night.

The baseball games between Cubs and White Sox are:

Wrigley Field July 10,11, or 12 – one game + parking

U.S. Cellular August 14,15,16 –one game + parking

Help us make this a success as you have in the past!!!!

LEMONT HIGH SCHOOL
CALENDAR PROJECT

We were fortunate to be able to help the Lemont High School students in their recent calendar project. We were very impressed with them and thank them for their recent gift.



Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
630-257-2972

lemontahs@gmail.com

www.lemonthistorical.org

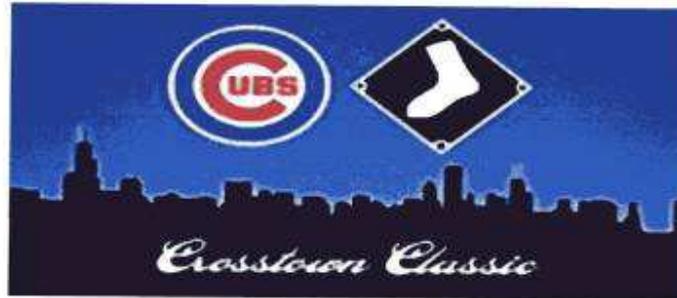
March 2015 NEWSLETTER
March 24-Gen Mem. Meeting 7pm.
June 19 & 20- Tag Days –NEED
VOLUNTEERS -2 HR. SHIFTS
CROSTOWN CLASSIC RAFFLE
DRAWING- June 24

OLD ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL
UPDATE

The public hearing took place regarding the petition to demolish Old St. Patrick School. There were many from our organization who attended + other interested parties and a few who spoke. Petition was denied by the Lemont Historic Preservation Commission. We must stay vigilant. We must encourage the community of Lemont to join us in finding alternatives and save this landmark building, just as it did so long ago when Old Central School was threatened. It stands proudly today as part of our landscape. Old St. Patrick's School deserves to be saved and preserved with a useful purpose, too.

MARCH REMINDER
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – FEES
HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY \$5

Lemont Historical Society presents....



*Crosstown Classic
Ticket Raffle*



**Win Two Premium Tickets & Parking
For each game**

**Cubs/Sox at Wrigley Field
Sox/Cubs at U.S. Cellular**

**July 10, 11, 12 One Game
August 14, 15, 16 One Game**

Raffle Tickets \$5.00 each or 5 Tickets/\$20.00

Drawing: Wednesday, June 24, 2015
At Lemont Legends Cruise Night
Winner need not be present
For more info: 630-257-2972 or www.lemonthistorical.org

President's Message .Best Regards, Sue



Pres. Lincoln, Sue Roy, & John Booth
Photo provided by Joy Homerding

Dear Members,

First let me tell you that our first ever FUNraising Pub Crawl, “Drinkin’ with Lincoln” was a success. In fact, I was praying for 30, had 50 shirts made and ended up with 80 participants! We thank our members and the Lemont community for coming out and supporting us. It was a fun night for all. The President, Mr. Lincoln, stole the show by being so gracious and charming as he led us to the different saloons along the way allowing many to take selfies – a word unfamiliar to him and his time frame. We have been encouraged to repeat this event in the future and encouragement like that is welcome news to us.

It was great to meet so many of our volunteers at our Volunteer Appreciation Event on March 8. We on the Board appreciate each of you and understand prior commitments kept some away but from the feedback we received of those attending they enjoyed the day and the Guinness Cornbeef.

We do now have our “Crosstown Classic Raffle” and **each of you will be**

receiving 2 books to sell. This is one of our major fundraisers and we hope that all of you will not only sell these books but come back for more. There really is nothing like fun at the old baseball park and to think you get to go to each of our Chicago favorite teams. Who will win it all? Why it could be you! **Also, if you sell more than 20 tickets, your name will be entered in a drawing for \$50.**

The Eastland Disaster exhibit is a work in progress right now but May is our target date to have it all in place with a program. How this tragedy affected lives and its haunting memories will be told. Sure many of you saw the recently discovered photos of the aftermath of that infamous day that were stored away only now to be uncovered. They add an eerie reminder of how quickly our lives can change in an instant.

June 19 & 20th will be our Tag Days. Great way to meet people and spread the word about our organization while also requesting donations. There are two hour shifts at each of the stores, Chipains and Jewel. You will be called to help and we know from experience you always come through for us and we are very grateful.

Some people have asked if we will still sponsor the “Quarrymen Baseball Team”. Yes, we are looking forward to another season of fun in the sun. We have a great group of guys who play their hearts out and please come out and enjoy this old fashioned sport. Games begin in July. Also, the Quarrymen are looking for additional players, so if you are over 18 and interested in some relaxed ball playing, please let us know.

All the very best to you all for a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

1800s “Instant Messaging”

With cell phones, text messages, Facebook, Twitter etc. we take for granted the convenience (sometimes inconvenience) of having 24/7 access to a person. When my generation was young we would leave the house and (usually) let our parents know where we were going and (approximately) when we would be back. They would not hear from us, and would not be able to get in contact with us until we returned home. If we needed to get in contact with them we would find a “pay phone” possibly in a “phone booth” and call. Today we worry, and rightfully so, if we do not hear from someone immediately when contacted. If necessary in emergency situations today there are even ways to pinpoint a person’s cell phone location.

Generations ago if someone left the house and went missing it would have been very difficult to locate them. Communications were slower than slow. An immigrant would leave their families in the Old Country, come to the United States seeking work and then send money for the family to join him.

There would be no communications from him during his entire trip. His family wouldn't know if he ever made it to America or may have died after arriving. Back then there were few ways of finding a missing person. Sometimes disappearances were intentional, preferable to a messy or expensive divorce, others were due to acts of violence.

In the 1800s a family used the newspaper to

try to locate a missing family member. Women would take out personal ads asking for the public's help in finding a missing husband. These classified ads can provide family history information detailing your ancestors life.

The following ad was found in the 1881 Cairo Bulletin: “Missing since a week back, Mr. Michael Powers of this city, left without the knowledge of his family. Wife and children distressed. Those having information please contact this newspaper.”

This article followed in a March 1882 paper: “Some time ago Mr. Michael Powers, who keeps a saloon at the corner of Tenth Street and Washington Avenue, left the city apparently without the knowledge of his family. A day or two afterwards a man was killed on the Illinois Central track who was a stranger to all who saw him as Mr. Powers did not return home and give any evidence of his whereabouts, his wife became very much alarmed, and finally concluded that the man killed was her husband. Although men who had seen the dead man, and who knew Mr. Powers well, sought to convince Mrs. Powers that the dead man was not Mr. Powers, she would not be comforted and persisted in her belief. But subsequent developments have dispelled all mystery; several letters have been received which give news of the missing man. The latest was received by Mr. James Ross yesterday morning. It is from a friend of his in Kansas City, was written on Saturday, and states that Messrs. Michael Powers and P. M. Ward of Cairo, arrived there, presumably in search of the James boys, on Friday afternoon. The two gentlemen are well and happy, and are probably in search of pleasure more than anything else.”

At a time when their social media was a weekly newspaper, personal postings notified everyone of those who went missing. One of the only options for wives to get help in locating their missing husbands were classified ads.

Some ads included physical descriptions and as in this case an occupation and a location for the business. Family history information sometimes turns up in the most unexpected places. Don't dismiss any source such as classified ads when searching newspapers. There may be an ad providing personal details to help your family tree become a very descriptive family story.

*My family tree is a few
branches short! Help appreciated*



Connecting Branches

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

**Stuart Brown researching Nathaniel
Bowman Brown**

**Donald Pechous researching names
including: Scheel, Seidel, Litsoft &
Bliesemer**



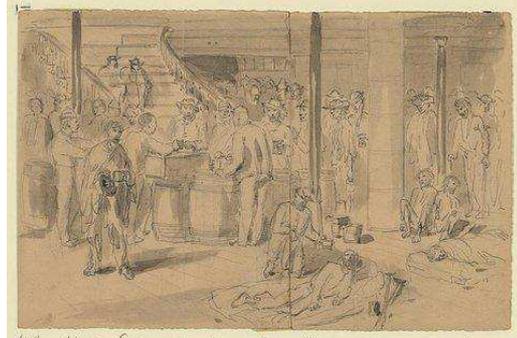
Mailbox

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@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON 2015



“How Coffee Fueled the Civil War” By Jon Grinspan – New York Times Article submitted by Richard Lee (Con. From Jan Newsletter 2015)



Exchanged Union Prisoners

When times were good, coffee accompanied beefsteaks and oysters; when they were bad it washed down raw salt-pork and maggoty hardtack. Coffee was often the last comfort troops enjoyed before entering battle, and the first sign of safety for those who survived

The Union Army encouraged this love, issuing soldiers roughly 36 pounds of coffee each year. Men ground the beans themselves (some carbines even had built-in grinders) and brewed it in little pots called muckets. They spent much of their downtime discussing the quality of that morning's brew. Reading their diaries, one can sense the delight (and addiction) as troops gushed about a “delicious cup of black,” or fumed about “wishy-washy coffee.” Escaped slaves who joined Union Army camps could always find work as cooks if they were good at “settling” the coffee – getting the grounds to sink to the bottom of the unfiltered muckets.

(Continued Next Issue)

CONGRATULATIONS!

We wish to acknowledge the recent recognition of Patricia Knight, former LAHS President, who was inducted into the Lemont High School Hall of Fame. Noteworthy because it is the first class of Lemont High School Alumni inductees and also the 125th Anniversary of the school that many claim as their alma mater. Other inductees are Joe Forzley '45 and Al Meyer '67. We congratulate all of them on this special honor!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY!!!

We had a nice group of volunteers sharing food and fun at our annual event to thank those who help us throughout the year. Pres. Susan Roy prepared the hearty and satisfying meal with Rose Yates making the dessert. Other Board Members brought appetizers. Good to have a social gathering with no other agenda on tap.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
2015**



PUB CRAWL 2015



President Lincoln escorts Mrs. Yates down the infamous, night Lemont streets at the "Drinkin with Lincoln Pub Crawl"

RAFFLE WINNER



**PRESIDENT LINCOLN
CONGRATULATES CHRIS HILL
ON WINNING!**



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

“The Lemonter” June, 1945 Lt.

Schmidt Prisoner of War (cont)

At Stalag 4-B we could hear British Lancasters bombing Berlin, and that sounded good. We were showered and deloused by Russian prisoners, who told us that 30,000 Russians had died there of malnutrition. These Russians were tough, and several times after receiving Red Cross packages we threw a few cigarettes over the wire into their enclosure. The Russian prisoners fought desperately to secure bits of these cigarettes.

Enroute to Stalag 4-B we thought of trying to escape through the roof, but found the boxcars pretty rugged. We finally broke off a piece of an iron bar from the roof and were trying to pry off the side of the car when the train came to a sudden halt. Germans entered the car and with thoroughness found the bar, which we had hidden in the straw. That ended the escape attempt.

At Stalag 4-B I lost many personal items. Conditions were bad. From Feb 5 to Feb 12 we had very little food and a small amount of soup. Then we moved to another camp and before being placed in boxcars again were given a third of a loaf of bread and a can of meat, which was not too bad.

“Some of the men, being hungry, ate theirs at once and paid for it later, because it had to be stretched out. They wired 26 officers into one half of the car and the other half was left for three German guards. They removed our shoes. On the ride we saw many women working – old Polish and Russian women, laboring on the roads or in the wheat fields.

There was a hole in the boxcar from which we took turns looking two minutes at a time, and that was a thrill when your turn came.

Finally we arrived in eastern Poland after a four day ride, and were put in a camp where we found a wonderful demonstration of U.S. cleanliness and orderliness. The internal administration was up to American officers. When we reached the camp at 7am. we were thirsty and hungry. A hot meal awaited us. We were given clean clothes and one Red Cross food parcel.

This was the only ground forces officers camp in Germany then, and I was made assistant adjunct, which was a wonderful thing, as it kept my mind occupied.

We saw Poles, British and French soldiers mistreated, and women, too Expectant mothers worked 12 hours a day in the wheat fields adjunct to our camp in the middle of August.

In the camp we had entertainment and books, and heard the Lord Haw Haw programs and German propaganda programs, which were of the violent type. We led, on the whole a simple life and we also had, in order, to get along with the Germans, to bark as loudly as they did. Until last October the Germans kept our food calories per day at about 1800. The OKW at that time ordered rations cuts to a 1350 daily. While we did not have all we wanted we took things in stride and got along best we could. Then the Red Cross food parcels were cut off and we received no packages after Oct 16, with the exception of one parcel at Christmas time, and then just before we were evacuated we received one more.

We received 1 1/3 ounces of meat per day per man, and had a diet, lacking in proteins. We were given one sixth of a loaf of bread per day, or 2 1/2 slices.

(To be continued)

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 Toni Blaeser, Patricia 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

Human & Financial Resources

Fund Raising- Richard Homerding, Grant Writing
Exhibits: Richard Lee

Program: Gary Roy, Susan Roy

Tours: Gail August

Membership: Susan Donahue

Wedding Committee: Carol Garibay, Susan Donahue

Building & Maintenance: Bill Uznanski, Richard Lee, Richard Homerding

Web Master: Paul Froehle

Society members are encouraged to participate in Committees and Subcommittees

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS
VILLAGE OF LEMONT
LEMONT TOWNSHIP
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

Lemont Area Historical Society Membership

Student \$15.00-----
Senior Citizen:\$15.00 -----
Individual: \$20.00 -----
Family: \$30.00 -----
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**

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. 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. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style.

St. Pat's Parade 2015

