



# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439  
630-257-2972 [lemontahs@gmail.com](mailto:lemontahs@gmail.com)  
[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)



**July 2015 Newsletter**  
**July 28- Crusin on Lake Michigan**  
**5:30pm. -7pm**  
**Discounted Cost:\$32.00**  
**Sept 19 – Lemont Street Fair :10-4pm.Vendors & Volunteers Needed**

## **CRUISIN ON LAKE MICHIGAN**

There is still time to join us for this special trip we are taking on Lake Michigan on July 28 from 5:30-7pm. Tour is from the Chicago Architectural Foundation. We will be aboard, “The First Lady” docked at Michigan Ave & Wacker Dr. You can either drive downtown or take public transportation. Info on that will be on our Facebook Page and Webpage. Cost:\$32 which is a reduced price.

## **VIETNAM MOVING WALL**

We would like to let you know about a ceremony that will take place at the American Legion Post on Archer Ave in Lockport on August 20. Grounds will open at 6pm. with the official ceremony to take place at 7pm. Names of those who died in Viet Nam from Lemont and Lockport will be engraved on the Viet Nam Moving Wall. The “Moving Wall” will be at the Post for five days. The first being August 20.

**“CROSTOWN RAFFLE WINNERS!”**  
We want to congratulate Greg & Linda Zolecki (center) on winning the raffle which included two box seats to both the White Sox and Cubs games + parking. We know that they enjoyed the experience by their happy faces. They choose to only go to Wrigley Field for the one game with four tickets and we were happy to accommodate these loyal Cub fans.  
We appreciate all who participated in the raffle and please know that you are helping the LAHS too. If you did not win we can as we often say as baseball fans especially in Chicago, “Wait until next year!”  
Rick Homerding won the gas price money of \$50. Best to all our winners!

**QUARRYMEN BASEBALL  
HOME GAMES  
REMAINING  
AT MAA FIELD ON MAIN STREET  
JULY 19- TBD  
AUG 22- TBD**

**KEEPATAW PARADE –SEPT 6 AT  
2PM. A TRADITION SAVED THANKS  
TO PROJECT LEMONT**

**New Amendment Proposed by Life Member Gail August:**

March 24, 2015

To: Secretary, Lemont Area Historical Society

From: Gail August, Life Member

Proposed Amendment to LAHS By-laws; notice to be given to the membership at the March meeting and published in the May newsletter; to be voted on at the next general membership meeting.

Reason for amendment: To allow decisions which need to be voted upon by the membership to be completed. There have been too many meetings in the past few years where there was not a quorum of 10 and thus necessary decisions could not be completed and were postponed to the next general meeting and in some cases to even the following meeting. This amendment would allow timely decisions and ensures that meetings where the nominating committee selection and elections are scheduled for a vote by the general membership would be completed and not postponed because of the lack of a specific number of people present to create a quorum.

Proposed amendment - Article IV-Membership; Sect. 5-Meetings; Part D-Quorum

New Wording: "Any number of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum"

Current Wording: "10 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum"

If passed this amendment would be effective at the start of the next general membership meeting after passage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail August

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



Dear Members,

Hope all is well with all of you and your families and you are enjoying the summer!

A special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with our Tag Days! We really appreciate all of your time and effort that you gave to help us with this important fundraiser. I can not imagine where the LAHS would be without your generous support.

Congratulations to Greg and Linda Zolecki, the winners of our Crosstown Classic Raffle!! Know they had a great time! Again, thank you for your support.

Hope you got down to Heritage Fest and saw us at the Bingo Booth or had your picture taken at our Historic Photo Booth. In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fest, Richard Lee and Doris Peterman gave a tour of the I & M Canal and Consumer's Quarry. Also we displayed some vintage photos of Lemont in Rich Forzley's storefront. A big thank you to Rich for letting us use his front window.

Again, we are calling all artists, antique and collectible dealers, crafters and anyone else that might be interested in participating in our Street Fair on September 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 can 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 rest of the summer! Best Regards, Sue

**EASTLAND DISASTER PROGRAM  
MAY 15, 2015  
PRESENTED BY THE  
EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

**(Members of Eastland Disaster Historical Society & Presenters of Program)**



**SISTERS WHO'S GRANDMOTHER  
SURVIVED THE EASTLAND  
DISASTER**



## Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

### Genealogy & The “New Deal”

It is seldom that I am contacted for some information that sparks an idea for an article or articles as much as this one did. A while ago I received an email just asking if I knew what CCC meant. Their family had found just a note on a card with a reference to their Grandfather and the “CCC”. Was this an organization he was a member of, and what did the letters mean?

One of the most tragic years in American history, 1929 is remembered for the infamous stock market crash and the Great Depression that followed. These events had a terrible impact on many Americans. Herbert Hoover and his successor Franklin D. Roosevelt developed many relief programs to try to alleviate the feeling of hopelessness and despair that unemployment brings. The “New Deal” consisted of a number of programs created to help Americans; though there were many failures, there were also many success stories.

One of the two most successful projects, formed in March 1933, was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was a public works project intended to promote environmental conservation and also concentrated on building good citizens through disciplined outdoor labor. Through the CCC President Roosevelt combined his interest in conservation and service for youth, hoping that this “tree army” would relieve rural unemployment and keep youth “off the city street corners.”

Under the army’s guidance, camp commanders had disciplinary powers and corpsmen were required to address superiors as “sir”. Over 500,000 young men lived in CCC camps by 1935 usually staying from six months to a year. The last enrollment period being January 31, 1942, nearly 3 million young men participated in the CCC.

The army’s experience in managing such large numbers and the military style discipline learned by corpsmen, provided unexpected preparation for the massive call-up of civilians for WWII.

Besides soil conservation and reforestation, more importantly the men planted millions of trees on land scarred by fires, natural erosion or lumbering; they were responsible for over half of the reforestation done in the nation’s history. Corpsmen also dug canals and drainage ditches, built over thirty thousand wildlife shelters, stocked rivers and lakes with nearly a billion fish, restored historic battlefields, and cleared beaches and campgrounds. In less than 10 years they built more than 800 parks and planted nearly 3 billion trees nationwide.

There were a few camps in the Lemont area (identified as Lamont on some records). Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin comprised number six of the total of nine Military / CCC Corps Areas used during the administration of the CCC. The third digit from the right in the company number would change as projects were completed and the camps were be moved to another area. The movement of the camps and their identifying numbers was flexible and fluid making it difficult to track their members.

I was able to find info about four of the camps in our area with their agency affiliation and location:

Agency ID	Military Date	Camp	Postal Address	Railroad Depot	Distance
CP-11	1673 V 2/7/1938	Lamont	Lamont	5 mi SW	
SP-55	1675 V 2/7/1938	Lamont	Lamont	5 mi SW	
DSP-11	2611 8/22/1934	Lamont	Lamont		

The following camp may have been identified as Lemont in some records:

SP-2	631 6/19/1933	Romao	Lockport		
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Agency designations: CP=County Parks  
SP=State Parks DSP=Department of State Parks  
V=Veterans

A few of the projects of the CCC can be seen in and around Lemont. We have a CD available at the LAHS Gift Shop for \$20 with great photos of some of the projects.

**THE BOWL”  
LEMONT, IL  
January 15, 1934**



The Recreation Bowl is one that has been seen and used by many who may not have known its beginnings. Originally it was home to a pool and band shell with showers on a lower level, and is now referred to as “The Castle”.

Also the 2,492 acre Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Du Page County is home to a waterfall created by the CCC and is a destination to many hikers and bikers. An unusual project taken on by the CCC was the Village Hall basement area (called the dug out) added in 1938.

There are some interesting websites about the New Deal organizations and their many undertakings. One stands out as being dedicated to preserving the heritage of the CCC members.

Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy at <http://www.ccclegacy.org/home.php> has a goal to promote awareness of and preserve the stories of the people and projects of the CCC. It currently is very informative and as more documents are contributed and as time allows, this website will become a tool in researching family members believed to have been a part of the CCC.

**Next newsletter: The second success, the roll of the WPA and it’s connection to family history research.**



**Connecting Branches**

The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following: **new family names being researched: Pat Graczyk – researching Jacob Jagodzinski & Ardelle Ostrom- researching Bernard McCanna**



**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 email us at: [lemonthistorical@gmail.com](mailto:lemonthistorical@gmail.com)

**KEEPATAW DAYS 1950’S**



If a gent didn’t grow a beard for Keepataw he might end up in the makeshift jail on Main Street in view of all the community. These gentleman pictured had nothing to worry about as you can see.

*By Susan Donahue*

**TAG DAYS:**

We understand that there were special circumstances that contributed to some not being able to do Tag Days this year, but here are those who were able to help: Barbara Bannon, Rose Yates, Patricia Browne, Carol Garibay, Bill Gwodz, Paul Froehle, Barb Buschman, Jennifer Knieppenberg, Becky Malak, Ron Danihel, Richard Lee and his grandson Ben, Marge Michaelson, Sandy Wall, Georgia Knuth, Chris & Bill Kerns, Kim Savage, Gail August and a special thank you to someone who helped me with pickup and doing extra duty Doris Peterman. We have a great group of people I just wish we could clone all of you – sure would make it easier on a Chair.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:**

We would like to thank the following for renewing their memberships since the last newsletter: Chris Camalliere, Patricia Camalliere, Becky Malak, Syneta Olson, Gary Roy, Susan Roy, and William Uznanski.

**TAG DAYS 2015**



**TAG DAYS 2006 CHAR COUNTER**





## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

Most of us have fond memories of Keepataw Labor Days especially those like myself, who grew up anticipating this special time in Lemont. Small town America in the best sense of the phrase.

The town of Lemont was called Keepataw once, but why and is this a person, place or thing? The answer follows:

### CHIEF KEPOTAH (KEEPATAW)

Kepotah (Keepataw) was one of the Chiefs of the Potawatomi Indians "Potawatomink" of St. Joseph, Michigan. The translation of his name is "Sweet Water." The Potawatomi were "People of the Place of Fire" or "Keepers of the Fire". This phrase refers to the tribes role as the keeper of the council fire in an earlier alliance with the Ojibwe and Ottawa. They felt they were a special tribe that had been the first to receive the fire and give it to the other tribes. They were considered by outsiders to be a good friend but a bad enemy.

They were traditionally shorter and more robust with darker skin. Villages were located on waterways. Warriors wore their hair long except in times of war when they shaved their heads except for a scalp- lock to which they added an upright roach of porcupine hair with an eagle feather. War paint was red and black.

Kepotah (Keepataw) was one of the Indian Chiefs who with Black Partridge controlled what was Lemont from the early 1700's to 1816. Two famous Indian trails, the Illini and the Sauk, had branches in our township that led to St. Joseph, Michigan. The Chief and braves would move from one area to the

other according to the seasons to hunt and fish.

War was declared between the United States and England in June of 1812 and on August 14<sup>th</sup> of that year a council was held with the local Indians among them Kepotah (Keepataw) and Black Partridge telling them that Ft. Dearborn could not be defended and the occupants would retreat to Ft. Wayne, IN. At this council the Indian braves openly expressed anger against the whites, mainly the Americans.

Both Kepotah (Keepataw) and Black Partridge, although they disagreed with the braves actions, were present at the subsequent massacre of Ft. Dearborn to maintain their positions in the tribe. On matters of war and raiding parties votes were taken and majority voted attack. It was reported that neither of them took part in the killing and tried to save those they could.

Chief Kepotah kept guard over the Kinzie family during the massacre and immediately after it escorted them by boat to St. Joseph, Michigan. He and Black Partridge had enough prestige to guarantee their safe passage. He finally escorted them to Detroit, where he insisted that the English, who had captured Detroit take care of them. He visited them frequently in their home and it was said they enjoyed each others company.

In the fall of 1816 a treaty was signed between the American government and the Potawatomi Indian Chiefs ceding away a tract of land known as the Indian Boundary, which included our present town of Lemont.

Sources cited: Chicago Magazine 1857. Chicago: Chicago Historical Bookmarks, 1978; Lemont & Its People 1998; Encyclopedia of Illinois; Potawatomi Indian website

## Lemont Area Historical Society

*In the Old Stone Church at*  
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

Wednesday: Visits by appointment only.

**The main floor of the museum is available for weddings, meetings, and events.**

### Board of Directors

President Susan Roy

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rose Yates

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## LAHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

**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 150 issues. 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 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 and/or refuse if not in the interests of our organization. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials see the membership application.

### LAHS GIFT SHOP

**Lemont & Its People -\$20**

**Lemont's 125<sup>th</sup> Ann. Bk -\$15**

**CD's & DVD's - \$20**

**New "The Mystery at Sag Bridge" by Pat Camalliere -\$18**