



Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
Email: lemonthistorical@gmail.com
www.lemonthistorical.org
Also on Facebook
January 2016 Edition

ELECTION NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Results

President: Susan Roy
1st Vice-President: Richard Lee
2nd Vice-President: Susan Donahue
Secretary: Rose Yates
Treasurer: William Uznanski

**Three Year Terms: Barbara Bannon,
Patricia Camalliere, Gary Roy**

**Proposed Amendment Change regarding
quorum did not pass**

FRIENDLY REMINDER MARCH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

2016 LAHS EVENTS JAN & FEB

**Jan 30: Classic Movie Nite at Museum
(see flyer insert)**

**Feb 12: "Drinkin with Lincoln" Pub
Crawl: 7pm. Free t-shirt included.
Cost: \$25 per person.**

Membership Fees:

Student: \$10.00 _____
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 _____

SUPERBOWL RAFFLE

CAN'T WIN IT IF YOU AREN'T IN IT!!
\$20.00 00 per square

Payout

1st Qtr - \$100
2nd Qtr - \$200
3rd Qtr - \$300

**Final score gets two Blackhawk tickets and
\$150 cash**

**Blackhawk tickets can be exchanged for
\$250 cash**

Purchase at Smokey Row after 1/24/16

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

**Mail to: LAHS 306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439**

Lemont Historical Society Presents...



An
Evening
In
OZ

Join us for a

Screening of the Original 1925
Silent Film version of the
Wizard of Oz
at 6:00 pm

followed by the 1939 Color Film
at 7:35 pm

Come for 1 or stay for both!

January 30, 2016
Lemont Historical Society
306 Lemont Street

Admission \$3.00
Refreshments Available

For more information: (630) 257-2972
www.lemonthistorical.org



President's Message. .Sue Roy



Dear LAHS Members

It is hard for me to believe that 2015 is over and we are in the middle of January, 2016 already. Thanks to all our faithful members and volunteers, we have come up with new and inventive ways to continue our mission of preserving Lemont's rich history and our beloved museum.

The recent program held at the Lemont Christian Community Church in the old Teden's Building with guest speaker, former Lemont High School Coach John Jones was entertaining, informative, and for those who grew up in Lemont, nostalgic. We want to thank Coach Jones for taking the time to come and talk, the Lemont Christian Community Church for allowing us access to their church and Milan Laketa for the offer of having drinks afterward at Tom's Place with a percentage going to the LAHS. The two people who brought this together were John Quinn and Richard Homerding.

We recently learned that one of the former President's of our Society, Patricia (Dalman)Knight, a native of Lemont, is published in the Fall 2015 edition of "Route 66 Magazine". The article is entitled, "Lewis University Airport". It is a story of a "fly by" of the airport's early history, its role in WWII, its connection to old RR#66 and its importance today. Pat is a pilot and flight instructor whose family lived on State Street, just north of where McDonald's is today. She is currently an aviation safety

inspector with the FAA in Fort Worth, TX. We thank Pat for her service and wish her all the very best!

Visit <http://www.route66magazine.com/> to order a copy of the magazine.

We would like to acknowledge the microfilm acquisition initiated by Gail Ahrens. She noticed an article online about the Raynor Memorial Library of Marquette University looking for a home for the newspaper microfilm archives of the Chicago Tribune. She forwarded this information to Barbara Bannon, our genealogy expert, who checked it out. We happened to be the first inquiry and the University wanted them out ASAP. Gail & Jack Ahrens very generously volunteered to go and pick them up. The Coordinator of the Raynor Library, Mary Rieder and her son Ben, helped pack up 2,738 rolls in 42 boxes total into the Ahrens vehicle and they are now a part of the LAHS library. We now have Tribune newspapers on microfilm starting with 1849 thanks to Gail.

We want to make sure that you join us for a trip down the yellow brick road at 6:00 p.m., January 30th, at the Old Stone Church. We will be showing the 1925 silent version of the Wizard of Oz followed by the 1939 musical. Our Street Fair sloppy joe sandwiches will be offered as well as other refreshments.

Also, we will be celebrating Abe Lincoln's birthday again this year with our "Drinkin' with Lincoln" pub crawl. Please join us in tipping a few with Honest Abe on his birthday.

Most importantly, we would again like to thank our valued volunteers for all of your help throughout the year. We could not do it without you!

All the very best to all of you and your families for a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2016!

Sincerely,
Sue

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

Spelling Doesn't Count

With over twelve million people entering the United States through the immigration station at Ellis Island, there are bound to be many stories about the process that have been passed down through the years. One of the persistent myths that I am sure everyone has heard is about how family names were changed there.

The story passed down again and again tells of how the officials at Ellis Island would change the names of those immigrants that sounded too foreign. One point that seems to disprove this would be the fact that the inspectors never actually wrote down the names of the arriving immigrants. Records of immigration were not created by the inspectors, they checked the names of those entering against those recorded in the ship's passenger list or manifest. The ships manifests containing the list of names were completed by the officials when the ship departed. This was the official and only record of immigrants requesting entry into the United States.

When a passenger purchased a ticket, their name was added to the manifest prior to the voyage by an employee of the steamship company. These employees, mostly ticket agents and pursers did not require passengers to present special identification, they just accepted the names the immigrants gave

them. This same manifest was presented to the officials at Ellis Island when the ship arrived.

The process at Ellis Island described in detail in the book, "They Came in Ships" by John Colletta, tells how the inspectors, holding the record of the immigrant he was inspecting, would ask the same questions over again and could compare the oral statements with the record. There was a staff of translators working alongside the inspectors reading the names already written down on the lists.

The Ellis Island inspectors didn't alter the names unless convinced that a mistake had been made in spelling and even then the original record remained legible. Misspelling at the time of ticket purchase or during translation from one alphabet to another is one opportunity where an error could have been made.

Also common were immigrants changing their names themselves after arrival in the United States for a variety of reasons. An immigrant starting a small business may want their name to sound more American, to fit in with the locals figuring it was good for business. Often, since there was no law in New York State requiring an official record of a name change, many would just use a different name or spelling.

After many years of searching the census I have found relatives names spelled differently several times, occasionally even in the same census. There were times when pronunciation of a Z was mistaken for an S, when an i was mistaken for an e and on and on. Not only was a language barrier causing errors, but poor handwriting

compounded the problem sometimes recording a double r as an n or a double n was written as r n.

Not to say the census was an official record, but even with church records, which are used as birth records, the same problems occurred. Even today there are multiple spellings of names on our family vital records.

Even with no paperwork the myth persists in family lore of the name changes at Ellis Island. There have been no instances of anyone producing first hand records of name changes being forced upon immigrants. One theory is that the immigrant remembers the entire process of learning English and possibly adjusting their name to a new spelling or pronunciation and refers to this as part of their experience at Ellis Island.

May you ask the right question of the right person at the right time!



Connecting Branches

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

William Patrick – researching the Patrick Family



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 lemonthistorical@gmail.com

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

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: Richard Lee
2nd Vice President: Susan Donahue
Secretary: Rose Yates
Treasurer: William Uznanski

Board Members

Barbara Bannon ,Patricia Camalliere, Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman, John Quinn, Gary Roy

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