

Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
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Picture by Richard Lee

June 2017



Great Lakes Baseball Team, 1918.
George Halas is in the top row, 5th from the right.

The following article from the *Sailor's Attic Blog* is reprinted with permission from the National Museum of the American Sailor. It was co-authored by Martin Tuohy and Dan "Chicken Legs" Smaczny of the Lemont Quarrymen.

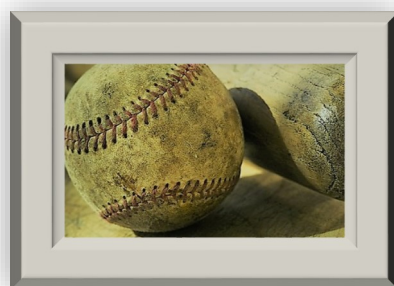
Every April, hope springs eternal on baseball's opening day. The American entrance into World War I on April 6, 1917, however, plunged the baseball season into a national emergency. In Chicago, the Cubs baseball team – and the U.S. Navy – responded with fervent patriotism.

On April 12, 1917, six days after U.S. entry into the war, the Navy sent sailors from U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes to Weeghman Park, Chicago's North Side Major League ball park, to recruit young men to join the U.S. Navy. Now known as Wrigley Field, Weeghman Park opened in April 1914. The ball park's location was ideal: young men attending the Cubs opening game could see athletic sailors and then enlist in the Navy after the game by riding the electric trains northward to Great Lakes. Showing pride in Navy tradition, the Great Lakes sailors brought onto the Cubs' ball field the Navy's universal good-luck mascot – a goat. A goat for the Cubs?!?

Continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

- June 16 & 17 – Tag Days
- June 24 – Quarrymen Tournament
- June 26 – Gelsosomo's Pizza Fundraiser
- September 3 – Lock 16 Boat Tour & Captain's Luncheon
- October 7 – Cemetery History Walk – "The Talking Dead"
- October 20 – Fright Night Movies at the Old Stone Church



Museum Hours

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Friday

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Library Hours

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - Noon

By Appointment



Presidents Message...



Dear LAHS Members,

Hope all is well with you and all of your families and you are enjoying the nice weather we are finally having! Cannot believe it is June already!

The Board would like to thank Mayor Brian Reaves, Trustees Jeanette Virgilio, Paul Chialdikas and Chris Miklos for all of their hard work over the many years they have dedicated to the Village and wish them the very best as they enter into a new chapter of their lives.

We would also like to thank Mayor Reaves and the Village Board for their very generous donation to the society as a result of the *Mayor's Drive for Charity*. The money will certainly be put to good use!

The Board would also like to congratulate our new Mayor, John Egofske, and new Village Trustees, Ryan Kwasneski, Dave Maher and Ken McClafferty. We wish them all the very best in their new positions and look forward to working with them in the future.

I would like at this time to give a special thank you to all the volunteers who will be assisting with our Tag Days! We really appreciate all of your time and effort that you give to help us with this important fundraiser. I hate to always to be using the "f" word, "fundraising", but with our beautiful historic building there is always the need of funds for general maintenance and repairs. We are adding a fundraiser this year that I hope you will enjoy. On Monday, June 26th, we will be having a fundraiser at Gelsosomo's Pizza in Lemont. A percentage of all dine-in food purchased will go to the historical society and if you attend you get a coupon for 10% off your next dine-in visit. Sounds like a win/win for everyone! Please bring the enclosed flyer with you so the society gets their cut.

The Lemont Quarrymen are in mid-season and will be holding their 2nd annual tournament "The Quarrymen Classic" on June 24th starting at 10 am at Mt. Assisi field. Again Abe Lincoln (Kevin Wood) will be participating. There will also be a blue grass band, games for kids, a Lemont firetruck and food will be offered. The event is free, however, food can be purchased. We are always looking for new "kranks" and "krankettes", so hopefully, you will put this date on your calendars. We also have home games on July 29th and August 5th.

If you get a chance, please like our facebook page. We have been posting some very interesting Lemont related photos on a weekly basis.

On September 3rd, we will again be arranging for a group canal boat ride and captain's lunch at Lock 16 in LaSalle, Illinois. The cost of the boat tour and boat captain's luncheon is \$40 for adults and if you sign up before August 1, \$35 per person. Seating is limited, so don't wait until the last minute to sign up. Last year we had to turn several people away because the event was at capacity. It is really a nice relaxing afternoon, the food is delicious and there are other places you can visit in the area to make a day of it like Starved Rock and the Hegeler Carus Mansion.

We hope to see you at some of these events and wish all of you a very happy, fun and safe Independence Day and rest of summer!

Sincerely,

Sue



History – Closer than You Think ***By Pat Knight***

I hope you have read one of my articles in the newsletter about some historic site I found or some interesting connection between present and past. So although I now live in Texas, I can't forget my life in Lemont. I look for connections and opportunities to talk about some of my favorite research on the US Air Mail route from Chicago to Omaha that used a beacon and landing strip at Waterman west of Aurora.

Aviation seems to be the connection so many times. Recently during a helicopter class in Oklahoma City, the instructor mentioned he learned to fly at the DuPage Airport near St. Charles, IL. Aha, a connection to the past. So I sent him information about that Air Mail route through Waterman, IL. He had lived near there, but he had no idea about that small town's importance to early air mail flights especially their safety. Well, he does now, probably more information than he ever wanted or can use. Somehow history did not do its job to connect to the present.

We are all stewards of our history. The Lemont Area Historical Society with all its members, officers, contributors, visitors, volunteers, and researchers capture our history and keep it alive. But we have to think about the present day as it becomes our past. What do we want to capture today so it is history for those who come 25 years behind us? Researching the past points out how often history was lost. So what are you going to preserve today?

Continued from page 1

For centuries, goats were favored animals of sailors. While at sea, a goat aboard a ship would eat food scraps and provide milk for sailors. Goats could also produce more goats aboard a ship. Small, nimble-footed, easy to control and wash, goats also provided a source of amusement – and fresh meat – for Navy sailors who might not see land for weeks or months. Even after the Navy modernized to steam-powered, steel-hulled ships during the 1880s and 1890s, sailors brought their goats as good-luck mascots aboard Navy ships.

Baseball, though, rivaled goats for Navy sailors' enthusiasm. Sailors formed teams aboard ship and competed in squadron and fleet leagues. Commanding officers found their commands judged by the quality of their baseball teams. By April 1917, baseball was a regular athletic training exercise at naval training stations, including Great Lakes. At Great Lakes, Commander John Kaufman, a surgeon, served dual roles as chief medical officer and athletic director. Kaufman recruited former White Sox player Chief Yeoman Felix "Phil" Chouinard, later Ensign, to manage Great Lakes recruits in boot camp and play on the team as well.

Great Lakes sports teams, dubbed "the Bluejackets" for the sailors' blue dress blue uniforms, quickly gained national attention. Charles Comiskey, owner of the Chicago White Sox, commented six weeks after the Great Lakes sailors' appearance at the Cubs 1917 home opener, "The Great Lakes Naval Training Station should turn out a world-championship baseball team if my observations and conclusions this season are not widely incorrect. Here's the reason. Baseball is a benefit to military training, and military training is a benefit to baseball."

The following year, the Chicago Cubs again invited the Great Lakes Bluejackets to parade and drill for Cubs fans before the home opener at Weeghman Park.

By April 1918, the Navy had enrolled professional baseball players as recruits in boot camp at Great Lakes, including future Chicago Bears players Paddy Driscoll and George Halas and Chicago White Sox star pitcher Red Faber. Fulfilling Charles Comiskey's prediction from the previous summer, the Great Lakes team became the U.S. Navy's baseball champions on August 5, 1918, by beating the Atlantic Fleet team at Weeghman Park, 11-6.

Did the Great Lakes Bluejackets' good-luck goat return to the Cubs' 1918 home opener? The surviving photographs show only the sailors drilling. Back at Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, though, the Navy's goats continued to bring the sailors good luck. For the Cubs, their luck arrived in November 2016 when they won the World Series and William Sianis' "Billy Goat Curse" that started in 1945 was finally broken.

Visit the National Museum of the American Sailor to learn more about the U.S. Navy's connection to baseball in our special exhibition When Baseball Went To War opening in May 2017.



USS Brooklyn (CA-3) Sailors and Marines on the cruiser's foredeck, with mascot goat, 1898.



USS Rhode Island (BB-17) Bill, the ship's mascot goat, circa 1913.

SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue



TAG DAYS:

Just wanted to give all of you a heads up on Tag Days this year. June 16 and 17th. I will be calling all of you this month to set up a time and place. As you already know Chipains has closed so I am scrambling to come up with an alternative spot but that will soon be in place. Two hour shifts just like previous years. Really am hoping that all of you able to do so will contribute your time for this cause. Thank You in advance.

VISITORS AT MUSEUM

We have had some interesting visitors at museum recently from different parts of the U.S. and Lemont newcomers.

Some have stayed at **"SMOKEY ROW"** and are curious about the early beginnings of our community.

One of the things all of them have in common is the genuine surprise they have at our downstairs museum. It is really a hidden gem which often takes me back since we publicize ourselves to the point that I would think people would get tired of hearing about us.

They find us also on the web and decide to make a day of it in this town most have only heard briefly about and are curious.

We have some who are following geocaching and find a written story with clues on the internet. The answers are at our museum or at least some of them. Recently I had two women come in, not only was it a puzzle for them but their printer was almost out of ink so even seeing the story and clues was a challenge.

They were determined to get to the bottom of this riddle and find the buried treasure. Is it buried? Another thing I have noticed is that the majority of them chose days that the weather is really miserable. It is either snowing, or raining, or bitter cold. Figure all of them are a hardy bunch to leave the comfort of their homes to pursue the location. I guess in a way human nature has not changed as we enjoy reading murder mysteries or in the olden times setting sail for distant shores in pursuit of something better. No gold at the end of the rainbow with geocaching or at least not that anyone has come back and told me about. I have had some email me they have found it, but sorry can't reveal exact location.

We have had Lemont High School students from not only History class but Science come in to the museum. It is very encouraging to see this as they are the future and their Interest in our history will hopefully lead to helping us.

The Science Class was interested in the early history of the quarries, as their project had to deal with a robotic device that they would be using to measure depth, etc of the quarries. How fascinating to use modern tech in the areas where Lemont's early settlers worked long and hard to etch out a living for their immigrant families. I can't wait to hear how they have progressed in their experiments. They all seemed eager to begin their adventure using this sophisticated equipment. They have a very nice teacher, who seemed just as eager as her students to begin the project.



**HOME GAMES ARE
HIGHLIGHTED!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
NOW!**

**QUARRYMEN VINTAGE
BASEBALL TOURNAMENT
JUNE 24, 10 A.M.**

Date	Time	Locale	Team
5/5	1:00 pm	AWAY	Creston Regulators v. Somonauk Blue Stockings
5/20	Noon	AWAY	Indianapolis Tournament
6/4	1:00 pm	AWAY	Aurora Town Club
6/11	Noon	AWAY	Cantigny Tournament
6/24	10:00 am	HOME	Tournament with Quarrymen, DuPage Plow Boys, Grangers of Rochester, MI, Indianapolis Blues, Milwaukee Juneaus, Saginaw Old Golds, St. Louis Brown Stockings, Sunset Hill Farm Colonels
7/9	Noon	AWAY	Cantigny Tournament
7/22	Noon	AWAY	Vermillion Voles & Lafayette Square Cyclones at Kennek UK County Park
7/29	1:00 pm	HOME	Quarrymen v. Somonauk Blue Stockings
8/5	1:00 pm	HOME	Quarrymen v. Chicago Salmon
8/12	1:00 pm	AWAY	Chicago Salmon at the Methodist Campground of DesPlaines
8/19	10:00 am	AWAY	Milwaukee Cream City's Festival
8/27	Noon	AWAY	Somonauk Blue Stockings & Creston Regulators at Somonauk
9/9 & 10	TBD	AWAY	Homer Fest
9/16	1:00 pm	AWAY	Sunset Hill Farm Colonels

Home Field Located at 13900 Main Street



Genealogy Corner

The Immigrant Citizen by Barb Bannon

It is almost impossible for anyone to do their family history without finding an ancestor that was not an immigrant. If you claim you don't have any, you are either Native American or just have not found that relative yet. We all carry the genes of ancestors that arrived here from other Countries. Blending people from different faiths, and different ethnic backgrounds is what makes us special and is not easy to accomplish.

It has been estimated that close to half of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island. More than three quarters of people arriving there were successfully passed through in a matter of hours, and only about one percent of people who showed up at Ellis Island were actually turned away.

But millions of immigrants did not come through at Ellis Island when it opened in 1892, or through any port. Instead, many arrived overland by first going to Canada, then crossing the border into the U.S. where avoiding immigration officials was much easier than it was at Ellis Island.

A high percentage of America's immigrants have arrived here illegally for the past 150 years or more. Their goal was to get to the United States so they could provide a better life for their families, and worry about papers later. Most of them stayed and raised families and contributed to America's industries, military and culture.

Since there was no requirement to become a citizen, many did not.

Those that felt they wanted to become part of their new homeland, after residing here for two years, filed their declaration of intent to become a citizen, also called the "first papers". Then after three additional years of residency, they could file a petition for naturalization. Many of those who applied did not complete the requirements for citizenship, but those who did were then sworn in as a citizen and issued their certificate.

There are no hard and fast rules about what the records contain or if they even exist, but they may be a source for the nation of origin, occupation, and arrival date. Depending on the Federal or State court, the procedures for making or keeping these records varied but became more consistent in the early 1900's.

Taking all of this into consideration I don't have high expectations of finding the first papers or the petition for naturalization of an ancestor who immigrated about 1850. I did find his Naturalization Index Card which contained a birth place of Ahldenburg (Oldenburg), Saxony, Germany, naturalization date of 1856, location-Will County Joliet Circuit Court and most importantly the certificate number.

Since this is a Circuit and not a Federal Court, the records are kept with the county so I contacted the Will County Clerks Office. After a little more searching and a few phone calls I was placed in contact with a very helpful clerk at the Circuit Court Archives who walked me through the process of getting copies of what they had. After paying just a small copy fee I received the document as an email attachment and also by snail mail a few days later. Although not the paperwork I was hoping for, I now have his Certificate of Citizenship.

I am still not giving up my quest to find any more information that may be out there. It's like hearing the end of a good mystery before you read it but you still have that need to know everything that happened along the way.

*All journeys begin
by leaving one place
to venture to another.*



Connecting Branches

The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following family names being researched: **William Fischbach**-researching **Cavanaugh & Fischbach families**, 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

A big thank you goes out to Sandy Ekkert for the donation of photographs. We are always looking for new/old pictures, and these came with a bonus of identification.



Thank you Sandy for thinking of us.



Ellis Island immigrants - Ellis Island immigrant portraits circa 1900 - Pictures - CBS News



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

CIVIL WAR MONUMENT

I thought I would follow up on something that was very near and dear to my heart, "The Civil War Monument" in downtown Lemont.

When our committee of the Civil War Ad Hoc Committee got started on this project, which had many twists and turns we visited with Mr. Clyde Zimmer. Mr. Zimmer as you may remember was the initiator of the idea in the first place to have a Civil War Monument in Lemont.

He had compiled lists and done research on the men who served and their regiments, etc. When our committee went to visit him in the nursing home we had promised him that if and when we found additional names besides those of my own great grandfather and Barb Bannon's that we would visit him and bring him up to date on what we had learned.

It took us two years to complete this mission. Thankfully the Lemont Park District, who owns and maintains Legion Park where the monument is located, were more than patient and helpful to us.

We got busy with our lives but always in the back of our minds was the promise we had made to Mr. Zimmer in the beginning.

We finally made plans to see and deliver this information to him.

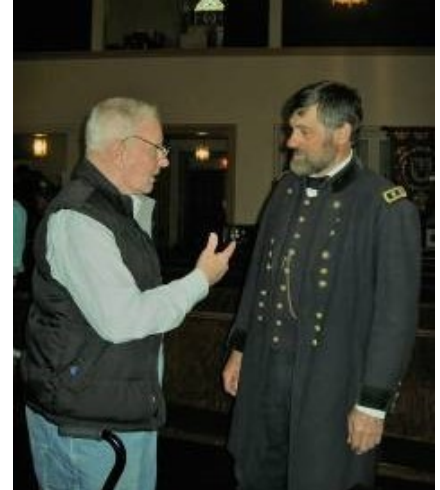
We, Gail August and myself, went to the nursing home in Chicago Ridge, where he resides now. It was good to see him, although he was more fragile than the last time. He recognized us and we were able to speak to him and give him the new names that had been added.

He asked about our society and some of the members. Richard Lee had visited him earlier and told him about Rose passing away, which saddened him. He spoke about her and was happy to learn that through an effort by some of us Old St. James Academy was saved from the

wrecking ball and that it will remain part of Lemont's landscape.

We filled him in on some of the other news in Lemont and he sent his best wishes to all of you.

Here was this man who through determination had impacted our community in a positive way. Gail and I both agreed as we left the nursing home that his help to us had been invaluable and we were so very glad we had kept our promise to him. Thank You Mr. Zimmer!



Reenactment Civil War 2012

Lemont Area Historical Society

Board of Directors

Susan Roy, President

Richard Lee, 1st Vice President

Susan Donahue, 2nd Vice President

William Uznanski, Treasurer

Vacancy – Secretary

Board Members

Barbara Bannon,

Patricia Camalliere, Carol Garibay

Rick Homerding, Joy Homerding,

Doris Peterman,

John Quinn, Gary Roy

Society members

are encouraged

to participate on the

Committee or Subcommittee

of their choice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

◇ Tag Dags

◇ Quarryman Vintage Baseball Tournament

Volunteers are need for these upcoming events. These events cannot be successful without your participation. Your assistance is greatly appreciated! Don't delay—sign up today!

To volunteer for Tag Days, contact Susan Donahue at (630)257-2972.

To volunteer for the Quarrymen Vintage Baseball Tournament, contact Susan Roy at (630)888-5259.



**Gelsosomo's
Pizzeria**



Let's
PACK THE PLACE

**Monday June 26th from 5-9:00 to benefit
The Lemont Area Historical Society**

**It's Party Time...
and it's for Charity!**

It's time to Pack the Place! We're having a special Gelsosomo's dinner fund-raising event to benefit...

Lemont Area Historical Society

Bring the family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and your dog (OK...not the dog)! The more who dine the more money we raise for our group. Come on...let's Pack the Place!

Event takes place between 5:00 p.m. and close of business on the date listed above. The group or organization listed above receives 50% of all dine-in food sales purchased between those times. Does not include liquor, pick-up, or delivery sales. Valid at Lemont Gelsosomo's only.



**Gelsosomo's
Pizzeria**

We'd like to offer a special thank you for attending this fund-raiser. Have your server sign and date this coupon and you'll receive

10% Off
**On Your Next
Dine-In Visit**

Must be signed and dated by a Gelsosomo's staff member to be valid. Valid at Lemont Gelsosomo's only. Not good with any other offer. Offer expires on 07/31/17

Gelsosomo's Staff Use Only

Date



**Gelsosomo's
Pizzeria**

**206 Main Street,
Lemont, IL**

**630.410.8106
gelslemont.com**

