



Picture by Richard Lee

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society

306 Lemont Street

Lemont, IL 60439

(630)257-2972

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August 2017

**Work hard, have fun and make history.**

**Jeff Bezos**

### Upcoming Events

**September 2nd Keepataw Parade**

**LAHS volunteers – win a ride in vintage car**

**September 3rd – Lock 16 Boat Tour &**

**Captain's Luncheon**

**September 13th – 6:30 pm Open House**

**Wine and Cheese Reception**

**Sept 26th - 7:00 pm General Membership**

**Meeting, Election Slate &**

**Nominations From the Floor**

**October 6th – Cemetery History Walk**

**"The Talking Dead"**

**October 20th – Fright Night Movies a**

**The Old Stone Church**



**Win a ride back in time!**

**Saturday Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Calling all Lemont Historical Society volunteers. Enter your name in a drawing to ride in the 67th Keepataw Parade "Salute to Volunteers". Ever ride in a Stanley Steamer or a 1931 Model A "rumble seat"? Now is your chance to ride in one of two antique cars! If you have volunteered for LAHS in the past and will be available for the parade on Saturday September 2nd at 12 noon please call 630-257-2972 and leave your name and phone number for the drawing.

Cars courtesy of  
Howard Johnson & Gary White.

**If you like, wear period clothing!**



Photo Credit Tim Hilton



## Presidents Message...

August 10, 2017 Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>,

Dear LAHS Members,

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and the kids will be back in school! The summer has been great with the car shows and concerts on Stephen Street. It is so sad that it will be coming to an end soon.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with our Tag Days! It was a great success and we truly appreciate all of your time and effort that you gave to help us with this important fundraiser. Also a big thank you to all that joined us at Gelsosomo's in June for pizza. It was a great evening and as always, the pizza was delicious.

The Lemont Quarrymen just played their last home game of the season. Here is a photo from our last game. The Chicago Salmon look on as one of their ballists "Pipes" sings his base ball ballad for the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch. They are a very theatrical group of ballists!

It looks like Labor Day weekend is going to be packed with activity! The 67<sup>th</sup> Keepataw Day Parade begins at 2:00 pm on

Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Heritage Fest to follow at 3. The Village will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the clock in Budnik Plaza with a special celebration. LAHS volunteers will be running the gambling in Budnik Plaza and taking old time photos in front of Smokey Row Antique Shop. Then, on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be going to LaSalle for the canal boat ride and captain's lunch at Lock 16 in LaSalle. The cost of the boat tour and boat captain's luncheon is \$35 for adults and special pricing for children. 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 you the best for the end of summer and Labor Day Holiday!

Sincerely,  
Sue



### Museum Hours

Tuesday and Friday  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Library Hours  
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
By Appointment



# *Closer than You Think – Civil War*

*By Pat Knight*

*To continue my theme of historic connections between Illinois and wherever, I found a cemetery near old Route 66 north-east of Oklahoma City. Saturday morning, while there for training, included an adventure to find it.*

*The cemetery today is named the Oklahoma Veterans Cemetery. At the entrance is a metal arch that holds the words, “Union Soldiers Cemetery”. It once was associated with a Union Soldiers Home. It is very small, and it is very hard to find. Best way to locate it is to find the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum on NE 36<sup>th</sup> street, then look up on the hill to the south-west.*

*The Civil War began in 1861 and ended in 1865. According to the Civil War Trust, “The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slave holding country in the world.”*

*As I was wandering up and down the lines of white markers, I stopped at one particular place for no particular reason. John Nausler, Company G, 37<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Illinois? How did he come to be buried in Oklahoma City?*

*Next I found Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois for the years 1865 and 1866. The report provided the history of the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry. It was organized in 1861 in Chicago. It participated in such battles as Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) and Fayetteville in Arkansas, and Newtonia in Missouri. For its part in the Civil War, the report states that the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry marched 2,250 miles.*

*Finally, the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry was stationed at Columbus, Texas west of Houston. That was a long way from Illinois, and the final connection to Oklahoma City is still a mystery. We can assume he was in the Union Soldiers Home, but no proof so far.*

*What would John Nausler think of his story being written on something called a computer using some strange power called the internet? What would he think about being part of Illinois again, if only in history?*

*Physical address of the cemetery is 2312 NE 36<sup>th</sup> St. mailing address; 3501 Military Circle; OKC, OK*



**FUN FOR THE  
WHOLE FAMILY  
IN SEPTEMBER!  
DON'T MISS IT!  
September 3, 2017**

## **LaSalle Boat Tour & Captain's Luncheon**

**Current amenities much improved!**

Get in on this adventure that turns back  
the clock even for a short time.

\$35.00 per adult. Price includes the  
Captains Luncheon and a mule pulled canal boat ride.  
Limited seating available, reserve now.

Starved Rock, Hegeler Mansion and other nearby  
attractions available for an all day trip!





## **TAG DAYS 2017**

I would first like to thank Jewel/Osco and Walgreen's for allowing us to station our faithful volunteers for our annual fundraiser.

People in Lemont were very kind and generous to us. It is the first time in my experience of doing this that quite a few people actually knew who we were and what we are about. They also thanked us for keeping our history and sharing it. It was a very nice feeling to hear this and know that we are making a difference in the community and are not as obscure as we used to be in town.

None of this can happen unless our members step up to the plate and go that extra mile and give their time to help us. Some even gave an extra donation to further our cause. We are so very lucky to have you on our team!

## **TOURS**

On Sunday, July 16, we had a tour for a family that is very excited about their son getting a job at Argonne. He just graduated and part of the graduation festivities was to come and touch base with his families past.

You see the family at one time lived on Lemont Road and were connected to the Poppelreiters and the Rickens. They owned farm land for quite a few generations in that area. Ironically their land was purchased by Argonne during WWII as time was of the essence for the "Manhattan Project" and the realization that what they were working on could shorten the war and prevent more U.S. casualties. In some there is still the resentment at how the land was obtained, but obtained it was.

The family visited our museum and then took a tour of downtown Lemont. My understanding is that they first went to St. Alphonsus Church to attend mass, where the family originally belonged and then to St. Alphonsus Cemetery and then on to us. A lunch was held in Lemont where the branches of the family met and I am sure went over the days activities and their impressions.

Many of us take so much for granted of our history and the buildings that we have seen for so many years. It is good to realize that for some like this family it has become a new awakening of the past and the bond that still exists and calls out to them.





# Genealogy Corner

## What's Your Story?

by Barb Bannon

The further removed from my childhood (not to be interpreted as getting older) the more vague memories of growing up become. An account of one event can start to blend with that of another because our minds store memories in pieces waiting to be reassembled. It's just that when we start to put pieces back together we may force one into a space that is not quite right.

When starting to write your own story within your family's history it's ideal to have the best clues available. It is frustrating when we don't remember certain events as clearly as we would like, but record what you remember the way you remember it. Then put it aside for a few days or weeks, just think about it, you never know what clues you'll recall later to fill in gaps.

Help give memories a jump start, look at available pictures of the event or of another event within the same time frame. Take time to notice every detail, everyone in the photo and pay close attention to any action in the background. Check for memorabilia you may have from that particular time. Stop in at The Old Stone Church or museum in your area and view the exhibits, the items on display may help reconnect to a memory filed away long ago. Ask if they have recorded histories, such as the videos and audios we have at the museum. Many times the oral history recordings include recollections about the town and many of its residents.

Travel to the location of the event you're trying to remember. Walk through your old neighborhood, school or park, it can bring back a flood of memories. I took a walk downtown in the evening on Canal, Main and Stephen Streets not too long ago. Even though I live here and visit the downtown frequently, it was different.

I'm not sure if it was the lighting or the absence of the distractions of the day but it brought back memories of going to Midwest and A&P grocery stores.

If unable to travel there, use Google Earth, Street View to see the area at eye level, it's almost like being there. I've used Street View doing my research and it worked well when I wanted to find the location of a relative's home. One search was an eye opener; holding a 1939 picture of the home in Oregon, Illinois as I looked at the Google Street View, it was almost a perfect match – minus the air conditioner!

Another approach is to contact people from your childhood connected with your family, friends, neighbors, schoolmates, or those you may have met while visiting grandparents. Ask if they would mind reminiscing a bit, their memories may lead to stories of events you would never have thought of and you may do the same for them!

Mention to a relative what you are trying to recall; aunts, uncles, cousins or siblings may remember a family event more clearly. That trip to Lake Zurich for a picnic or the vacation to a "beach front" cottage in Michigan that didn't have a beach at all, may have more details than you thought. They may look at the same item or photo and recall something you hadn't remembered or had never known. It's interesting to see how an event you thought of one way your entire life, is described from a totally different point of view.

Genealogists suggest starting family history with what you know. But many seem to start with what they know about other people and forget about starting with themselves. Writing your own history can be personally rewarding and also helpful to your genealogy research. You may not have every detail recorded as exactly as you intended but you will have composed a life story that represents your thoughts and is as unique as you are.



### Connecting Branches

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

Nancy Kosek – researching – John Dziordzia (Georgia)

Thomas MacMullen – researching – Joseph & Jane Brown

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](mailto:lemonthistorical@gmail.com)

### Lemont Area Historical Society

#### Board of Directors

President – Susan Roy

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Richard Lee

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Susan Donahue

Treasurer – William Uznanski

Secretary – Vacancy

#### Board Members

Barbara Bannon Patricia Camalliere,

Carol Garibay, Joy Homerding, Rick Homerding,

Doris Peterman, Gary Roy, John Quinn

**Society Members  
are encouraged to  
participate  
on the Committee  
or Subcommittee  
of their choice.**

# STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue



In looking over data from the past that is still relevant today I am rather surprised in a way that the organ in the chapel seems to still draw attention.

It is one of the questions asked by those visiting, "Does the organ work?" "Yes, I can open it up and play a few notes to let you hear the rich tones", and so I do. The sound is impressive.

It does have a story like us. It originally had been played in a small church in Indiana and then sold to someone in Lemont, who had organ concerts in her basement. One of the organists who did perform for her guests was a Mr. Hollinsworth, who was a Director of Music at Christ Church in Clarenton Hills. The owner sold her home with the organ, but the purchaser did not want the organ so they donated it to us in 1998.

The organ needed some TLC when it came to us and Mr. Hollinsworth was one of the donors who helped to have the organ restored. He could not stand the thought that it would just be a decoration in our chapel without ever again being played.



It was a rather expensive undertaking for us as it is a electrified reed organ. The motor that drives it when we first heard it in the same room sounded like a jet plane taking off. We had to come up with an alternative place to store it and the lower level kitchen turned out to be the perfect solution for it.

It did take quite some time to finally get it up and playing. We often doubted our decision to take it between 1998 and 2002 when work was finally completed.

Finally on May 28, 2002 we had our first organ concert. Mr. Hollinsworth had come a few days before to see how it sounded. He was pleased and as we went through to

the lower level to view the exhibits he noticed sheet music and asked if I could remove it and he would be able to play the piece. Luckily it was an easy task.

We had a wide variety of age groups attending the concert that night. Mr. Hollinsworth had brought a soloist to sing the song from the sheet music, "My Old Lemont Home". The melody echoed through the chapel as everyone sat back and listened to a song about our town, which no one had ever heard before. A very touching moment for all. The song was beautiful, haunting and very heartwarming.

Note picture: The organ is watched over by Johann, who is a member of the musical Baer family, who greet all only during the festive Christmas season.

## Open House

Wednesday September 13 - 6:30



Wine and Cheese Reception

Join us at the Old Stone Church for light refreshments. Take a tour of our museum exhibits and discover the resources we have in our library that will answer those nagging Lemont history questions.



October 6: The "Talking" Dead Cemetery Walk  
St. Matthews Cemetery 127th St. 6 p.m.

A gravedigger, an unknown soldier, a "fly boy" and more will be temporarily resurrected during The "Talking" Dead cemetery walk. Get to know more about the people who made our community what it is today. There is a story beneath every stone, some scary. Come hear those unearthed by The Lemont Historical Society.

Adults \$15 Kids \$10. For more information call (630)-257-2972.



Labor Day Weekend  
Lunch & Boat Ride  
LaSalle, IL

Meet the mules, Larry, Moe & Joe,  
and spend 60 minutes riding  
through the 19th century.  
Enjoy the scenery and history  
on the I&M Canal  
at Lock 16



Sunday, September 3, 2017

Lunch & I & M Boat Ride

Lunch at 12:15 pm

(Your own transportation to LaSalle)

Meet at Lock 16 Visitor Center

754 First Street . LaSalle, IL SW Corner IL 351

(Joliet Street) & First Street

Boat Ride: 2:00 pm



\$35.00 p/person - Kids 10-12 \$26.00 -under 10 - \$18.00

Limited Seating Available - Sign up Now!

Pre-paid reservation required at Smokey Row Antique Shop

112 Stephen Street – (630)888-5259/(630)257-1112

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