



Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society

306 Lemont Street

Lemont, IL 60439

(630)257-2972

A Big Thank You to St. Alphonsus and St. Patrick choirs for providing a delightful Sunday afternoon, as always, filled with beautiful songs of the season! To all of our cookie bakers, packers & buyers; we could not have done it without you. And to all of those that attended, we hope we provided you with a beautiful start to your Christmas season this year.

Lemont Area Historical Society



Upcoming Events

January 19th - Flash Gordon episodes

February 9th - Drinkin' With Lincoln

February 23rd - Anguish movie

March 3rd - Trivia Night

May 5th - Quarry Walk

May 19th - Anniversary of Civil War Memorial

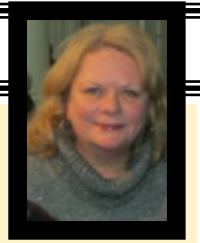
May 20th - Quarrymen home game – vs. Creston Regulators

June 23rd - Quarrymen Tournament – DuPage Plowboys, Elkhart County Railroaders, Milwaukee Juneaus, Somonauk Blue Stockings, Sunset Hill Farm Colonels, Vermilion Voles, White River BBC

July 14th - Heritage Fest and Quarrymen Field of Dreams – Quarrymen vs. Douglas Dutchers

August 18th - Quarrymen Home Game – vs. Blue Island Brewmasters & Sunset Hill Farm Colonels

Presidents Message...



Dear Members,

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope you all had peaceful holidays and are ready for a great 2018!

At this time, I would like to welcome our new board members, Traci Sarpalius and Pam Zukoski. We all look forward to working with both of them. Also, we would like everyone to know that our roof has been replaced by Great Job Construction. Hopefully, our roof/steeple issues have been resolved. Two grants have recently been submitted by the board and now that the roof has been replaced, we will continue our pursuit of a fire alarm system for the Old Stone Church. In essence, we are all looking forward to a year of growth. As we all know, we don't grow when things are easy, but when we are faced with difficulty.

Please keep our dedicated board member and friend, Pat Camalliere, in your prayers. She has recently been diagnosed with neck cancer and will be receiving radiation and chemotherapy for the next couple of months. Lots of prayers and positive energy to Pat and her husband, Chris, as they travel on this rough road.

As you can see, the Lemont Historical Society has been offered a very generous and exciting challenge by member and past president, Patricia Dalman Knight. I sincerely hope that this challenge becomes contagious among our membership as well as our community and we are able to match Pat's very generous offer to help our society. I am still blown away by her generosity!!

"Individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean." Poet, Ryunosuke Satora

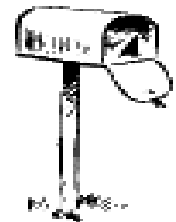
Hopefully, we will see some of you at our upcoming events. If not, stay safe and warm during these winter months.

Sincerely,
Sue



Connecting Branches

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



Mailbox

If you have a general genealogy question please send it via regular mail or email to lahs.genealogy@gmail.com with "Genealogy Corner Mailbox" in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter.

Question: I have been browsing the most recently released 1940 census. I happen to know where relatives lived and have used the search feature with no luck. I was wondering about if no one was at home, how was that handled? For or the 2010 census, I remember that we just received a form to complete and return by mail.

Answer: Unlike the census taken in 2010, the 1940 census was gathered by enumerators going entirely door to door collecting information. When they encountered no one home the census taker would schedule another visit. Those people counted on a return visit were listed at the end of the regular pages for that enumeration district. Additional pages would also include people living in a hotel or trailer camp, they were counted a few days later than the initial census. So if you think they should be near neighbors you recognize, check pages towards the end of the district.

Cops and Robbers – Lemont Style

by Pat Camalliere

Bank robberies are a serious business, but the robbery of the Clearing State Bank that took place on July 9, 1921, definitely had comic aspects ala *Keystone Cops*, although in this case Lemont cops got the upper hand in the end.

The gang of six was led by Martin “Big Six” Sicks, a notorious bank robber with a reputation for big heists, and Michael Geary, a convicted cop murderer and prison escapee. Geary had been serving two life sentences for killing Policeman John Rowe and civil war veteran H. J. Stevens in a holdup of a Lake Street ticket station. He had escaped in 1917 from the old penitentiary, was recaptured after two weeks, and escaped again in 1920 when he and eight other prisoners tunneled under the stockade from the honor farm at Lockport, IL.

The men had planned carefully - so they thought. On a Saturday morning the bank would be full of cash from the Corn Products payroll and because it was a weekend there would be few bank employees. One man stayed behind the wheel of the getaway car, two guarded the street, and three entered the bank waving guns. They forced the customers and employees into the vault, grabbed all the cash and bonds in sight, ran from the bank, jumped into the getaway car, and headed southwest on Archer Avenue.

Laughing and congratulating themselves on the ease of the robbery, the men counted their take - \$15,000. But the fun was just about to begin. Soon they heard sirens; it appeared that a bank teller had set off an alarm, and a police car was in hot pursuit. Traffic was heavy on Archer, as people came out to enjoy the fine day. Neither car made much headway as they dodged through and scattered cars right and left. When the robbers got to Main Street, they decided to turn toward Lemont in an attempt to elude the police car.

Instead they found the road full of people on foot, heading to their favorite fishing spots, picnic areas and swimming spots at the quarries on a lovely summer day. Can you picture it: hordes of children and adults watching the cars speeding toward them?

The frustrated robbers were blaming each other when one had a brilliant idea. He grabbed handfuls of bills and coins and threw them out the window of their car. Children and adults scrambled madly, crawling around to grab what they could. The following police car screeched to a halt to avoid the crowd and policemen tried to move the people from the road and recover the bank’s money. They soon realized the money was lost and made their way slowly through the scrambling crowd to resume their pursuit, having lost valuable time.

Meanwhile, the gang roared into town. Geary grabbed an armful of money, ran from the car into a private home. He threw money on the owner’s bed, and told her he would make her rich if she kept her mouth shut. Amazed, she ran from the house. Geary settled himself comfortably on the back porch and pretended to read a paper, thinking he could fool the police that way. The other robbers felt they would have a better chance to escape if they split up, so they deserted the car and ran off in different directions.

The police, led by Chief of Detectives Michael Hughes, cordoned off the area, but as word spread through the town crowds of people assembled, talking in groups in the streets, running around looking for crooks - and money - and further impeding the police.

Ultimately, Sicks and Geary were found hiding under a sidewalk, one man was said to have been found hiding in a coal bin in someone’s basement, and another was found hours later on the northwest side of town, hiding in the bushes and mumbling about bad luck and “this cursed town.” The fate and identity of the remaining robbers is lost to history.



Martin “Big Six” Sicks (left) and Michael Geary (right), convicted of robbery of Clearing State Bank, captured in Lemont, IL.



SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

MEMBERSHIP:

I am sure all of you remember that in March for the majority of us we will be renewing our membership.

We appreciate everyone that belongs and encourage you to reach out to others to come onboard. Let them know how important preserving our rich history is to you. Each of you are leaving your footprints in Lemont history and in some cases your ancestors did so many years ago.

We do have fun activities during the year and we are not gathering dust but out there each day trying to make a difference in our own unique way. Your talents and ideas are what makes this little engine called the LAHS grow and move forward.

WEDDINGS:

I know people often ask how the weddings are going and we are doing ok.

We had a wedding in September when the weather decided to fool all of us (as it often likes to do) and it was extremely warm for that time of year, but everything went well, although the groom unfortunately had decided to wear leather pants and he did not say anything about being slightly uncomfortable until he was about to leave. I told them it would be something to look back on when they celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

The bride sent us some pictures and gave us permission to share them. I thought I would share them with you.

Here they are:

Wedding September 24, 2017





STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

"ODE to 2017"



Oh, where have you gone O' 2017?
You melted away like ice cream
On a hot summer day.

Why wasn't it just yesterday
we were busy scheduling events to hold in You?

Now let me see:
There was Lincoln coming for the Pub Crawl (that
popular event also being held this year on February 9th),

Then on to honoring our Volunteers
Those charming, energetic people,
Who put themselves out for us with their
Talents and Enthusiasm and are such a Treat.

Now we march and show our Green
for St. Paddy's Day!
No, you don't have to be Irish,
Although it doesn't hurt.
Our band of a few show our banner
proudly as down the street we go.

Tag Days comes next but oh, wait a minute
Chipains is closing? Oh, what a shame,
We have to find another store – one just won't do cause
this is one of our major fundraisers –
Oh, let me see will Walgreens agree to let us stand and
receive donations for LAHS?
Why, yes they will – oh, my what a relief!

The Quarrymen Games held at MAA
show the razz of that old time play
as our players take the field ---
the opponents never knew how good we are until we
score

Nothing like the crack of the bat and
silence from the opposition.
As the Arbitrator calls us, "SAFE!!"

You were the year that the Keepataw Parade
and Heritage combined –
Howard Johnson and his Stanley Steamer –
why it was built in 1917 – a hundred years
old this year – now that is worth celebrating!

We had the Photo Booth with Bill,
Nancy and Jackie Uznanski
Not to mention faithful Barb & Joe Bannon
they are pros at getting people to dress up
and smile for the camera.

Now I could not go without mentioning that
old fashioned game – Bingo
That everyone loves so much they stay away.
There is Rick the caller Supreme and
Carol, Gail and myself to help just in case
we get a crowd of ten or more to play.

There are the weddings filled with love, joy,
and at sometimes drama
that fill the museum with tears and laughter.

We have library services from Pat, Gail,
and Barb
Who do their best to make finding lost
relatives as easy as one, two, three.

There are tours of the museum, quarry,
and downtown
Led by Gail and Doris who are such pros.

There were movies to please, tease, and haunt you
that have become a must see.

We finish always with our Christmas Choral
& Cookie Fest which was bittersweet
as we remember one of our fallen members,
Rose Yates, by name.

Oh, 2017 You will be remembered, Sweet Dreams!



Genealogy Corner



Resolutions Abound

by Barb Bannon

A new year is a great time to start thorough cleaning projects. Yes the house probably could use it but I will leave that for Spring. It also is that time of year when many of us, myself included, make resolutions. I make about a dozen, so that when February rolls around there will be one that has not been broken.

One of mine this year, again, is to get my accumulated genealogy information organized. I started out by going through the information that I saved on a few jump drives and found a Genealogy Corner article I wrote several years ago; ironically it was about, what else, organizing all the information acquired during research. Needless to say, the way electronics and software change so quickly I thought it would be good to do an update.

If you are a purist doing your genealogy by hand, I applaud your efforts. Try not to let the accumulation of information get the best of you. Establish a filing system for your papers, using file folders or 3-ring binders, and file each document, note and photocopy, etc. as you acquire it or set a time frame of once a month or so, depending on how active your research is. There are few things more discouraging than wondering where that birth certificate you desperately need to find for a correct date is buried.

The electronic alternatives are not the end all to the paper problem but it does help. The erasable/reusable notebooks that can write in by hand and then send your notes to the computer or cloud storage are great for jotting down a few things during interviews. There is also Dropbox, Evernote, OneNote, Google Keep and other cloud based products to organize your files, a google search or one of the internet genealogy magazines can tell you more about these convenient programs.

I have yet to find a scanner that will self scan, so paper has once again started to create a mountain on the corner of my desk. Sort an accumulation into two groups: items that are disposable after the information is extracted and those that are documents you need to keep, this will make scanning go much quicker. Also review photographs to be scanned. If you find it difficult to discard any, consider throwing away out of focus pictures and giving duplicates to others. Decide ahead of scanning whether to sort by family name, location, date, etc. which helps when tagging them in a photo program.

Cleaning out electronic storage is just as important as getting rid of paper. It's so easy to save scanned or downloaded information that it can be forgotten and never added to your family history program. Schedule this once a month or more depending on the amount of research being done, and plan to backup your genealogy program at the same time. Don't forget how easy it is to spread the wealth and the risk. Make sure copies are given to relatives, stored in the cloud, a safety deposit box, or anywhere away from home to ensure a copy will always be available.

Time spent to keep genealogy records organized, like anything else, pays off when the newest branch of the family tree is waiting to be connected.

“But I, the Lord search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards according to what their actions deserve.” Jeremiah 17:10

Challenge:

Folks,

LAHS needs money. There are some very important projects that have to be completed at the museum, and we need dollars to do that. I am a Lemont native, and I want to help. But we need your help too. I, therefore, pledge to match your donations. Yes, for me to donate, you need to donate.

Please help LAHS.

Sincerely,

Pat Dalman Knight

Donations will be matched up to \$10,000

NEED TO DO LIST

1. Designated electric line for fire alarm
2. Fire alarm
3. Painting of soffit and fascia
4. Seal off bell tower for protection from wind and rain
5. New boiler
6. New basement doors
7. Emergency exit on west side of building
8. Outdoor security light in rear of building
9. Stairwell light

WISH LIST

1. Air conditioning
2. Bathroom remodel
3. New carpeting
4. Permanent covering for mail cart to exhibit in yard
5. Waterproof basement
6. New steel front door
7. New lighting in foyer and gift shop
8. Paint basement floor
9. Digitize photo archives

Membership Renewal Application

Make checks payable to the Lemont Area Historical Society

306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439

_____ Individual \$20.00/year

_____ Individual Life \$200.00

_____ Senior Citizen \$15.00/year

_____ Student \$10.00/year

_____ Family \$30.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships

Museum Hours

Tuesday and Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

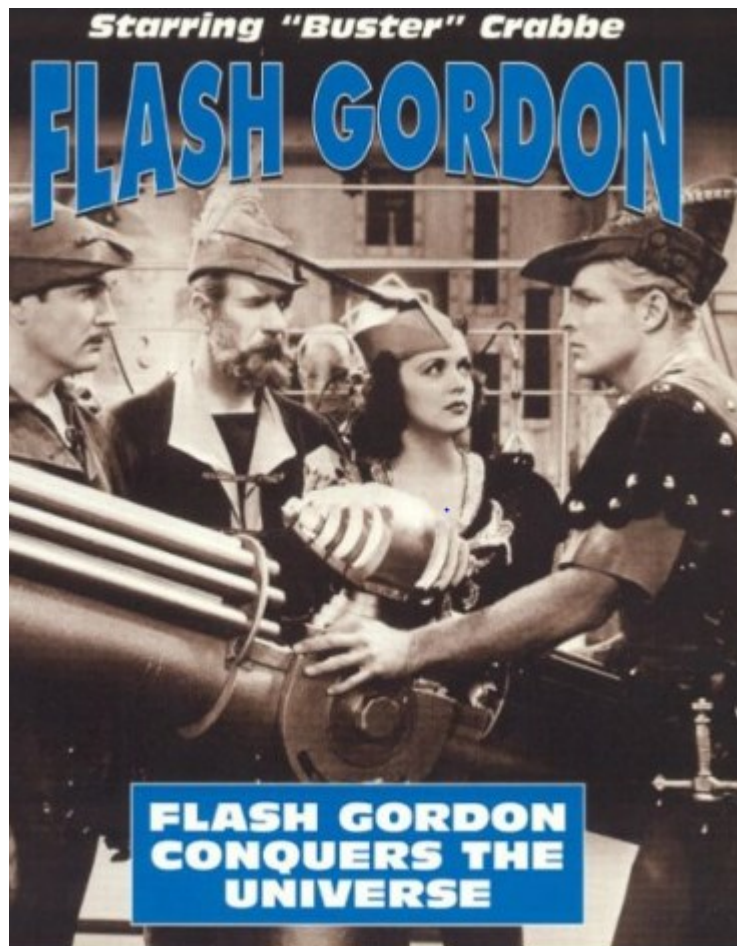
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Library Hours

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - Noon

By Appointment

Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe!!



**Come and watch the Star Wars of the Mid Century!
Watch Flash Gordon and Dr. Zarkov
battle Ming the Merciless!!**

Friday evening - January 19th

Lemont Area Historical Society

306 Lemont Street, Lemont

Doors open at 6:30 - Episodes start at 7 pm

Free admission - Food will be offered

Lemont Historical Society Presents...

**Drinkin' with Lincoln
Historic Pub Crawl
Downtown Lemont**



February 9 – 6:30 p.m.

**Meet at Smokey Row Antiques
112 Stephen Street**

**Get a bit of History and Raise a Glass
with Honest Abe, our tour guide, as we visit 6
historic downtown hangouts
Stonehouse Pub, Tom's Place, Canal Street Pub
The Vault, Main Inn & Nick's Tavern**

**Advance Registration Required
(630) 888-5259
Email: lemonthistorical@gmail.com**

**\$25.00 Fee – Over 21 only
For more information: 630-257-2972 or www.lemonthistorical.org**



Drinkin' with Lincoln 2018

Historic Pub Crawl

Downtown Lemont

February 9, 2018

6:30 p.m. pick up shirts

Smokey Row Antique Shop

112 Stephen Street, Lemont

630-888-5259; 630-257-1112

**Get a bit of History and Raise a Glass with Honest Abe, our tour guide, as we visit 6 historic downtown hangouts
Stonehouse Pub, Tom's Place, Canal Street Pub
The Vault, Main Inn & Nick's Tavern - \$25 Donation per person**

DRINKIN' WITH LINCOLN 2018 SIGN UP SHEET

Names _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Payment _____

Shirt Size Sm _____ Med _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Payment must be made by Feb 5 to guarantee shirts. Drop forms and payment off at Smokey Row Antique Shop, 112 Stephen Street, Lemont. Hours M-F 11 - 8, Saturday 11 - 6, Sunday 11 - 5.

Thank you,

Lemont Area Historical Society