

Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
 306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439
 (630) 257-2972

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 lemonthistorical@gmail.com

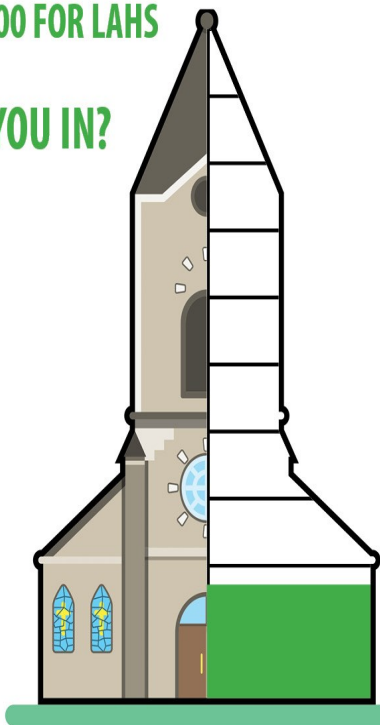


Picture by Richard Lee

March/April 2018

LET'S MEET PAT DALMAN KNIGHT'S CHALLENGE TO RAISE \$20,000 FOR LAHS

ARE YOU IN?



\$10,000.00

\$ 9,000.00

\$ 8,000.00

\$ 7,000.00

\$ 6,000.00

\$ 5,000.00

\$ 4,000.00

\$ 3,000.00

\$ 2,000.00

\$ 1,000.00

Pat has offered to match donations up to \$10,000. We currently have received **\$1,700.** We are not quite 1/5 of the way there. You do not have to give a large donation. It could be \$5 or \$10. Every penny matters. A special thank you to those who have already contributed!

Gloria Abboud
 Joyce Affelt
 Sal Alfano
 Gail August
 Pat Browne
 Bill & Barb Gwodz
 Rita Ludwig

Becky Malak
 M. Kay Manning
 David Molitor
 Bruce Taylor
 Pam Schmitz
 Annette Simon
 E.D. Wiles

Upcoming Events

05/05/18—Quarry Walk

05/18/18—Anniversary of Civil War Memorial

05/20/18—Quarrymen Home Game vs Creston Regulators

06/23/18—Quarrymen Tournament
 DuPage Plowboys
 Elkart County Railroaders
 Milwaukee Juneaus
 Somonauk Blue Stockings
 Sunset Hill Colonels
 Vermillion Vols
 White River BBC

07/14/18—Heritage Fest & Quarrymen Field of Dreams
 Quarrymen vs Douglas Dutchers

08/18/18—Quarrymen Home Game vs Blue Island Brewmasters & Sunset Hill Farm Colonels

09/07/18 -Tag Days

09/08/18—Tag Days



Presidents Message...



Dear Members,

Spring is almost here and Easter is around the corner! Thank the Lord we all survived another Midwest winter!

I want to thank everyone who has generously contributed to Pat Dalman Knight’s generous challenge to our community. As of March 14th, we have reached almost 20% of our goal. No donation is too small. If you give \$5 it becomes \$10. Every bit that is raised will be used to perform the work that needs to be completed at our Old Stone Church and hopefully for museum software to build a digital archive for our Lemont community. So let’s rise to Pat’s challenge to raise funds to help preserve our Old Stone Church and archives so they will be here for generations to come.

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today”

– Abraham Lincoln

At this time, I would like to thank Pam Zukoski for her contribution as a board member these last few months. Unfortunately, due to Pam’s heavy programming schedule at the library, she has decided to step down from the board. We wish her all the very best in all of her endeavors and hope to see her around at our programs and events.

We are continuing to work with the fire marshal in our pursuit of a fire alarm system for the Old Stone Church. We are also in the process of obtaining quotes for the long overdue repair of our soffit and fascia. It is desperately needed in order to keep the raccoons out of the attic. Also, thank you to John Quinn, Rick Homerding and Bruce Taylor for acquiring the old Budnik sign and getting it operating in our museum. If you get a chance, stop by and see it. It is pretty cool!

Please continue to keep Pat Camalliere, in your prayers. She has completed her radiation and chemotherapy and is on the road to recovery. However, she has told me that the recovery is supposed to be the hardest part. We all hope to see her back in action soon!

I sincerely urge you all to attend our March general membership meeting on March 27. We have some very important things that we need to vote on and we need your input.

All the very best to all of you and your families for a happy spring and Blessed Easter!

Sincerely,

Sue

LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

~ ~ ~

NEED TO DO LIST

- 1 Fire alarm
2. Trim tree branches away from roof
3. Painting/repair of soffit and fascia
4. New entry doors
5. Software to organize digital archives

WISH LIST

1. Air conditioning
2. Bathroom remodel
3. New carpeting
4. Additional electric outlets and improved lighting in loft
5. Outdoor lighting: rear of church, steeple, basement stairwell
6. Rework or replace flagpole
7. Waterproof basement

History of St. Alphonsus Parish and Church Tour

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of St. Alphonsus parish, parishioner and historical society member Gail August will conduct a free tour of the grounds and church on Sunday April 22 at 12:30pm while telling the history of the parish. Participants will learn why the limestone cross was erected, view historical photos of previous church structures and interiors, and learn the symbolism of the stained glass windows. Participants should meet in the church and the free tour will last about one hour. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.
Martin Luther*

Banking in the early days of Northern Illinois

By Pat Camalliere

Contrary to what one might expect, early settlers of Northern Illinois, beginning in the 1830s, were not all poor. Some left eastern states for expected greater opportunity in Illinois and arrived with sufficient means to purchase land. They brought food, clothing, furniture, wagons, and livestock with them. They built their homes, cleared the land, planted crops. At that time, barter was the only means of exchange, so they had no need for banks. But as they made profits on their crops and businesses sprang up around them, towns grew and so did the need for banking services.

At first all that was needed was a place to keep valuable papers, money or jewelry. There was nowhere to store valuables, police magistrate was a part time job, and in Lemont, Smokey Row with its dis-respectable saloons and brothels was getting established!



Tedens Hardware Store at 106 Stephen Street in Lemont had a vault that rented boxes for that purpose. The vault was said to be so strong that three attempts to break into it failed. The most recent was in 1930. Despite what looks like a great deal of destruction in the photo above, the robbers were unable to get to the contents of the safe. Tedens vault is still in the back of the main floor of the old building today.

Other banking needs gradually developed: the need to store payroll money or to exchange currency; businesses wanted capital for further development; the occasional loan was needed, when crops failed or for funds to buy land or develop businesses.

It was not unusual for banks in those days to operate inside other businesses that housed large vaults, such as general merchandise stores or companies with large payrolls. One could enter an archway and select from a grocery, barbershop, restaurant, or—yes—a bank.

One of the reasons bank services were very different in the early years was because there was no standard currency until 1900 when the gold standard went into effect. Prior to that federal, state, and private banks all issued currency in the form of bank notes, the value of which varied from bank to bank. It was common for employers, such as quarry owners, to pay their workers with scrip, perhaps good only at the quarry owner's company store. It was very confusing to say the least.

Adding to the uncertainty and poor reputation, early banks were prone to failure due to poor management or misuse of funds. An example of such a failure was the Lemont State Bank, started in 1891 with capital put up through the interests of notable Lemont business owners. Skeptical of the entire banking industry, the town was initially hesitant to trust this new bank. However, one person the town *did* trust was the bank's president, Tom Huston, so people put their savings into the bank.

Tom Huston was the town's Civil War hero, who, after surviving a number of battles, was wounded and sent to a Confederate prison. As the young man watched the horrors around him and the deaths of many prisoners, he asked God, "Why them and not me?" He became convinced he was meant to survive for a purpose and it became the guiding principle of his life.

After the war, he settled in Lemont and became well respected. He was elected to the village board, and then was made police magistrate, known for his honesty, courage, compassion and understanding. His task was not easy, as he held this position during some of Lemont's most challenging years, dealing with such matters as large numbers of immigrants, labor disputes, early Smokey Row, and the Quarry Massacre of 1885. But he worked hard to develop his beloved Lemont: he helped build a subdivision, solicited manufacturers to locate in Lemont, helped start Pure Aluminum, organized the Lemont Electric Light and Power Company, and helped to form the Lemont State Bank.

At first the bank was a successful venture and helped the town. That is, until the owners started to speculate in the purchase of wheat, using bank capital to finance the investments. The bank failed, and some people lost all they had.

Huston was devastated, and burdened with guilt. The people would not have put their money into the bank, and lost it, if they had not believed in him. On February 12, 1897, he went to a hotel in Chicago and registered under a false name. On February 14, hotel management broke into his room and found him dead. On the mantle nearby was a flask of whiskey from which a single drink was gone, and an empty 3 ounce bottle of carbolic acid. The weight of the bank failure and his part in it was too much for his great character.

SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue



FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Just a quick reminder that March is membership renewal month for the majority of you.

We value your being part of the Lemont Area Historical Society family and encourage you to look at your membership card and renew if needed. Thank you.

VISITORS AT THE MUSEUM

We often get a wide variety of people who stop by the museum. Some are just out for a walk, see the OPEN flag and decide to peek in and see what we are all about.

Others come in looking for something specific and to reconnect with Lemont, since they have moved. Most apologize for never having been in the building in the first place, can't understand why they didn't visit before. In many cases if former Lemonters it is because they still consider it a church as when they were growing up here and you didn't cross the threshold of another religion's church in that time frame.

Some are interested in the fact that it was a recruiting station of the Union Army, or are exploring the National Heritage Corridor and are taking the advantage of good weather to single out a certain town for a weekend's excursion.

One of the teachers at Lemont High School brings in his students for a short visit just to get them acquainted with the museum. Many do not know the town has a museum. Some find it interestingly enough to come back and volunteer their help, or are finishing assigned projects by their teachers.

We also have college students who are doing a class paper and need to interview or visit a museum and in many cases we are the closest without going into Chicago.

We have some who come in because to them it is a church building and they want to pray. I have always told them, "By all means come in – if it will help you to pray do so as God is everywhere." It does seem to give them peace in what appears to me to be a troubled time in their lives.

Some are looking for pictures of a time period in their lives when the pace was slower. They often look for family names that they remember from a long time ago and it brings back a flood of memories that they often share with me.

You would think that nice weather would be a motivating factor for a visit, but I have found that even after the twelve inch snow fall it is exactly when they come in. In one case it was for a wedding in June and they wanted to see how their decorations would work in the chapel area. You have to understand they actually climbed over snowdrifts to get in from the alleyway, but come they did.

It is always fascinating to me to see which each day will bring and who will walk through the door of the museum. Meet some very nice people and some that give me pause, but it is never dull.

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

Connection 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 lem-



Thank you to
Murphy's
Landscaping Co.
for all the
wonderful work
you have done
to for LAHS!



Genealogy Corner

Classified Relatives

by Barb Bannon



Thinking out of the box to do family history research can provide a different perspective to the stories that you include. Newspapers are one of the more common go to resources for birth, death, marriage and many other announcements usually included in the small town publications. These smaller local newspapers include articles about the local happenings, latest gossip and who's who. All of this is good information that can enhance a story added to the unexciting accumulation of names and dates that genealogy occasionally becomes.

One section of the newspaper that should not be overlooked is the classified section. These advertisements have always been a way for newspapers to make money but the content of these ads has changed quite a bit, and are almost nonexistent today. Those found in the older newspapers they can be a great way to learn more about the social history of when and where your relatives lived.

I have used newspapers for research many times to look up articles about events but really didn't give much thought to check the classified section until a few years I was looking for more information about a relative that owned a building along Smokey Row. Knowing the last year it was active I was checking that newspaper for information about the establishment. That's when I noticed the classifieds and found an ad with the description of the building and his name. There were listings for sale and rent of properties, business opportunities, estate settlements and personals with unusual things gone missing including possessions, animals and people!

Much more personal information is included in these ads than I would have thought; topics that may not have been discussed by family members before. In many of the posts there are not only names and address but sometimes physical descriptions and indications of families in desperate situations like these examples.

PERSONALS

HOME—Good home wanted at once for boy eight years old; country preferred. For further particulars address "Widow," P. O. Box 83, Middletown.

From 1919 PERSONALS "Good home wanted at once for boy eight years old; country preferred. For further particulars address "Widow," P.O. Box 83, Middletown."

WANTED—Whereabouts of H. L. Hooyer of Dallas, musician and leather worker, 20 years old, 152 pounds, 5 feet 8½ inches, light hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, dressed in gray suit, black derby with initials H. L. H. inside. Address MRS. H. L. HOOYER, 657 Carroll-ave., Dallas, Tex.

From 1919 Wanted: "Whereabouts of H.L.Hooyer of Dallas, musician and leather worker, 20 years old, 152 pounds, 5 feet 8 ½ inches, light hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, dressed in gray suit, black derby with initials H.L.H. Inside. Address Mrs. H.L. Hooyer, 657 Carroll ave., Dallas, Tex."

At

PERSONALS.

REAL estate dealer and contractor, 40, would like the acquaintance of lady with some money, who would marry. Address Frank Felman. Box 106, East Akron, Ohio.

From 1903 PERSONALS: "Real estate dealer and

con-
mo.
190

HERE YOU ARE, GIRLS. A SCHOOL-teacher just come to town; educated, refined and of good appearance. Write to him, girls, care of Oregonian. Object, amusement and what may follow, matrimony. T I, care Oregonian.

some
ox

Also from 1903: "HERE YOU ARE, GIRLS. A school teacher just came to town; educated, refined and of good appearance. Write to him, girls, care of Oregonian. Object, amusement and what may follow, matrimony. T I, care Oregonian."

Searching classified ads or newspapers, like some of the other resources that we rely on for genealogy research today, won't be possible for future genealogists since they are quickly fading away. Fortunately for now they are still an excellent resource for spicing up our family history.

**Congratulations to one of our own,
Ken Novak
being inducted into the
Lemont High School
Alumni Hall of Fame!**

Lemont High School's Alumni Hall of Fame welcomed its latest class of inductees when three graduates **Kenneth Novak '69**, **George Rimbo '87** and **Dr. Donald Weber '59** – were recognized at the school's annual Jazz Band Dinner Dance at DiNolfo's Banquets in Homer Glen on March 3. Each of the honorees was introduced by Lemont High School District 210 Superintendent **Dr. Mary Ticknor**, who presented each person with a commemorative plaque.



KENNETH NOVAK '69

Described as unassuming and kind, Kenneth Novak has dedicated nearly 50 years to the community he loves and does whatever he can to make Lemont a place people are proud to call home. Kenneth served for more than 30 years at the Lemont Park District, retiring as the Superintendent of Parks and Risk Manager. He was named the South Suburban Park & Recreation Professional Association "Park Professional of the Year" in 1992. His service to the Lions Club may be unparalleled in the Lemont community. Named the Lemont "Lion of the Year" multiple times, he served as President of the Lemont Lions Club, District Governor of Lions District 1-B, and President of the Lions of Illinois Foundation. Kenneth has found additional ways to impact the community, including a 10-year stint on the District 113A Board of Education and as a **Lemont Area Historical Society board member**. It's no surprise that Kenneth was cited as Lemont's 1994 "Citizen of the Year."

DR. DONALD WEBBER '59

Few people have had as dynamic of a relationship with Lemont High School as Dr. Donald Weber. Just 20 years after graduation, he returned to his alma mater as its superintendent, holding that position from 1979-85. He served in the same capacity at Lockport High School District 205 (1985-92) and Naperville Community Unit School District 203 (1992-2003). From there, Dr. Weber moved on to PMA Financial Network, leading the effort to introduce a newly created financial planning program to Illinois school districts; one district that took advantage of this service was Lemont High School District 210. Dr. Weber currently serves as PMA's Senior Vice President for Corporate Relations. A member of many statewide organizations during his time as an educator, he received the Award of Excellence in School Administration from the Illinois State Board of Education. He also was a founding member of the Lemont High School Educational Foundation.

GEORGE RIMBO '87

George Rimbo has been a pillar of the Lemont community for decades, serving his community with enthusiasm and integrity. A three-sport high school athlete, George was captain of the football team and earned the Sons of the American Revolution Award as a senior. After beginning as a part-time fireman in 1988, George steadily climbed the ranks in the Lemont Fire Protection District before being selected to serve as fire chief in 2013. A member of the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs, George served as a member of the District 113A Board of Education from 1993-99, and as a member of the Lemont High School District

**"At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better, it's about what you've given back."
Denzel Washington**



**Happy 97th Birthday to
NORMA JOHNSON
on March 26th!!!!**



STEPPING BACK IN

By Susan Donahue

In the last few weeks I have been working on a project concerning some of our buildings both in the historic district and in other areas of our community.

There were some that really gave me pause as it seemed I kept hitting a brick wall. Now I remember when I was a child going into some of them – one in particular, but try as I might I could not find written documentation on it – the Old Wally Walters Store on Main, where Higher Grounds Coffee Co is now. I spoke to several people who happened to have been children in Lemont and yes, they remember the business there, but alas no physical evidence. It was where someone told me her grandmother went shopping and bought shoes for her mom and siblings. No picture of it that I could find with the name. Luckily I used a hunch to find out the owners name and

yes, he had a business at that location thankfully and it was in print. You see, if you are not aware, the majority of businesses in Lemont didn't need to advertise, or if they did they put down only their street name – because everyone in town knew exactly what the address was and where they were located.

Everyone knew the owner, some better than others, but still they knew them because they greeted them when they came in.

I am sure most kids like me went with their parents, either mom or dad, when they went shopping. In my case it was with my dad and we went to pay bills on a Saturday morning or shop. It was Strand's where H & H is now, or the A & P Store also on Stephen Street. In that particular store my main goal was to find a way to get my dad to walk down this certain aisle where my favorite candy bars where. He never made it easy, as he looked at the list my mom prepared and would say, "No, Susie, there is nothing in that aisle that your mom wrote down that we should get." It was a game

because somehow or another we would just before leaving manage to go down that aisle and get the candy on my list. If dad had a plumbing or hardware issue he and I would go to Friedley's on Canal Street or Blesch & Welter's on Stephen. Frankly the Friedley building was one I always liked as when approaching I would stop for a moment to admire the angel sculptures on either side of the center top. Now they might have represented something else but to me they were angels. Have yet to see a picture of the building with them on it.

Everyone knew each other and they would stop and talk and catch up on the local gossip. It was a less hectic time – and a very good memory for me.

Sure you also have some very good memories and if you wish to share your experiences there are two very nice ladies from the Township who have started "Let's Chat" and they would be more than happy to hear from you and interview you about your memories growing up and living in Lemont. I have their contact info.

LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

2018

PRESIDENT: SUSAN ROY

1ST VICE – PRESIDENT: RICHARD LEE

2ND VICE – PRESIDENT: SUSAN DONAHUE

SECRETARY: TRACI SARPALIUS

TREASURER: WILLIAM UZNANSKI

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CAROL GARIBAY

JOY HOMERDING

RICHARD HOMERDING

JOHN QUINN

DORIS PETERMAN



Weather Records In Lemont

By Richard H. Lee

We had record rainfall February 20, 2018 with about 3.5 inches of rain and about 12 inches of snow that was melting. This deluge of rain started leaking into my basement and at about 6:30 a.m. I noticed my sump pump was running and that morning it ran for 22.5 minutes at 20 gallons per minute (gpm) for a total of 450 gallons pumped out. It started again about 9:30 and by noon pumped out another 250 gallons. In the afternoon it pumped 16.5 minutes for a total of 330 gallons. This made 1030 gallons or 20 50-gallon drums full!

Later that night it had pumped another 10.5 minutes for about 210 gallons. The following day it pumped out 290 gallons according to my timer and Thursday the 22nd it pumped another 11.5 minutes or 230 gallons. I looked back at the weather last year and saw that on March first we had 100 mm of rain (4 inches), which was probably another record but without the melting snow. I went out that day with my camera to record the big accumulation areas near my house or retention areas, such as at the Lemont Rehab Center along McCarthy Road. Fortunately we did not lose electrical power or our basement could have been ruined.





**WELCOME KRANKS TO
1858 BASEBALL!
HIP HIP HUZZAH!!!**

**LEMONT QUARRYMEN
2018 SCHEDULE**

DATE	TIME	LOCALE	TEAM
MAY 6	2:15 PM 3:30 PM	AWAY	CRESTON REGULATORS - OREGON GANEYMEDES
MAY 20	NOON	HOME	CRESTON REGULATORS
JUN 3	1:00 PM	AWAY	SOMONAUK BLUE STOCKINGS
JUN 10	1:00 PM	AWAY	AT NAPER SETTLEMENT VS. CHICAGO SALMON
JUNE 23	9:30 AM	HOME	TOURNAMENT
8			DUPAGE PLOW BOYS ELKHART COUNTY RAILROADERS MILWAUKEE JUNEAS SOMONAUK BLUE STOCKINGS SUNSET HILL FARM COLONELS VERMILION VOLES
JUNE 30	1:00 PM	AWAY	AT CANTIGNY PARK VS. DUPAGE PLOW BOYS
JULY 14	7:00 P.M.	AWAY	AT FIELD OF DREAMS VS. DOUGLAS DUTCHERS
AUG 12	1:00 P.M.	AWAY	BLUE ISLAND BREWMASTERS
AUG 18	NOON	HOME	BLUE ISLAND BREWMASTERS * SUNSET HILL FARM COLONELS
SEP 8	1:00 PM	AWAY	CORNELL DAYS
SEP 15	NOON	AWAY	SUNSET HILL FARM COLONELS

BASE BALL FANS, SHOW SOME GINGER AND COME SUPPORT THE LEMONT QUARRYMEN!!!

**HOME FIELD LOCATED AT MT. ASSISI FIELD
13900 MAIN STREET, LEMONT, IL 60439
LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - (630) 257-2972
WWW.LEMONTHISTORICAL.ORG**