

# CORNERSTONE

*Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

Founding of St. James at Sag Bridge at the  
Old Stone Church

**February 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

Drinkin' with Lincoln  
*meet at Smokey Row Antique Shop*

**February 17, 3- 7pm**

Lemont Bartender Reunion at Tom's  
Place

Folks,

In the January 2018 newsletter, I challenged you to donate, and I would match your dollars. As a Lemont native and longtime LAHS supporter, I am pleased pay up on my pledge.

Well, we did it. Wow! We reached total donations of \$20,360. It gives me great pride that the challenge was so successful.

Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,

Pat Dalman Knight

## Connecting Branches

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

**Charlie Popeck** researching - **Charles Popek family**

**Jayne Davis** researching - **Patrick Hogan**

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).

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

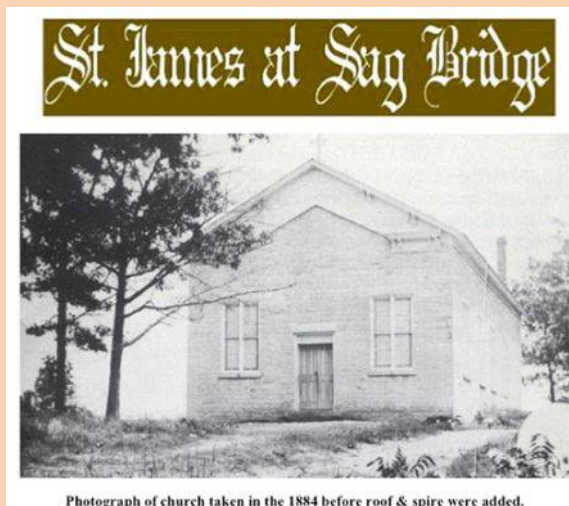
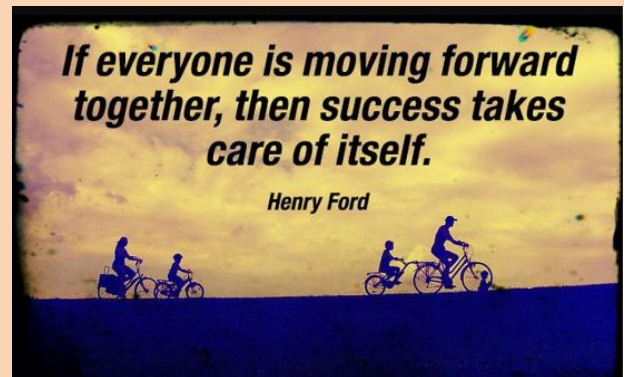
A new year is here! This is our fresh start, our time to begin anew and with a renewed spirit. It is a time to make resolutions, to visualize goals, and move forward toward success and growth! Reflecting on 2018, we have been overwhelmed by everyone’s support, enthusiasm and generosity. It seems that the energy in our Society is becoming contagious and that is a great feeling, it’s about time!

At this time, we would like to welcome our newly elected board members, Barb Buschman and Terry Blanz. We look forward to working with both of them. Also, we would like to thank Barb Bannon and Doris Peterman for their time serving on the Board. Although they are no longer on the Board, we know that they will continue to support LAHS.

We have many interesting events on the horizon and look forward to partnering with the Lemont-Homer Glen Rotary Club on our archiving project. It looks like 2019 will be a year of growth and improvement for LAHS and we are all looking forward to being a part of these efforts. Hopefully, we will see you at some of our upcoming events and maybe even helping out with the archiving.

Also, if you are feeling lucky, don’t forget about our special Super Bowl Raffle! All the best of health, peace, happiness and prosperity to you and your families in 2019!

Sincerely,  
Sue



Photograph of church taken in the 1884 before roof & spire were added.

## GENEALOGY CORNER

### Don't Become a Stranger

By Barb Bannon

Since starting to write genealogy articles for the newsletter close to twenty years ago, I have covered many topics. I have written about searching resources, organizing genealogy, breaking through brick walls, and what mistakes not to make. That last topic was well researched, although unintentionally!



Family history has been something I have had a passion for since I first realized that Mom and Dad were someone's daughter and son. I don't remember at what age, but at some point Grandma and Grandpa became my parents' parents. That was when the genealogy bug hit me; I just didn't know it yet.

Years later, I'm still trying to assemble a family tree with all the stories and photos I can possibly find of our ancestors. Often I wonder if our relatives ever thought to record details of an event that impacted their life or even something minor that they wanted to pass on; then I realize I do have details - in photographs.

Luckily many of my old photos are identified with names, dates and some with locations. It's disconcerting when I do find a photo without a name, so I am driven by this to identify as many of the current photos as possible.

For those interested in family history, it is best to start with what you know and work backward. But for anyone not looking to discover ancestors, compile the memories of your experiences to pass on so you don't become a stranger to those who are to come. Many years ago I found this poem, and it has motivated me to continue to identify people in my photos and tell their stories.

### Strangers in the Box

Come, look with me inside this drawer,  
In this box, I've often seen,  
At the pictures, black and white,  
Faces proud, still serene;  
I wish I knew these people  
These strangers in the box.

Their names and all their memories  
Are lost among my socks;  
I wonder what their lives were like,  
How did they spend their days?  
What about their special times?  
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time  
To tell who, what, where and when,  
These faces of my heritage  
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate  
Of the picture we take today?  
The faces and the memories  
Someday will pass away.

Make time to save your stories;  
Seize opportunity when it knocks,  
Or someday you and yours could be  
The strangers in this box!

*Author Unknown*



## MORE FROM OUR WRITERS

### Opportunity for Closure

*By Pat Dalman Knight*

I am very interested in World War II in the Pacific. Both of my parents served in the military in the Pacific, but they did not talk about that service although there had to be stories. A coworker of mine told me that her father served in the Battle of Milne Bay in New Guinea, the first major battle in the Pacific in which Allies decisively defeated Japanese land-forces. Her father never told her stories about that service either.

Many of the stories I read about the Pacific campaign ended with the author returning home and not talking about the experiences for years. But yet that time spent during the war had to include memories that are not so easily packed away

According to the National World War II Museum and the Department of Veterans Affairs, 16 million Americans served in World War II. There were 620,000 alive in 2016, and 496,777 still alive in 2018. I have seen World War II survivors, long separated from uniformed service, transported to Washington DC by the Honor Flight Network ([honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org)), allowing them to reflect at their service memorials, and perhaps reach some closure. If you would like to see more about Honor Flight, check out the moving video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VoWKh\\_T6aA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VoWKh_T6aA).



## SOCIETY NEWS *by Susan Donahue*

### Choral Fest 2018

We would like to thank the choral groups that came into the museum and made it so festive. The two groups were St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Choir and the Lemont Montessori Children's Choir. Each brought a joy to the listener.

The Choir Director, Mr. Joseph Martorano, of St. Alphonsus will be taking the church choir to Italy to perform there by invitation this January. He also told me that next year his choir would be more than happy to come back and sing for us at our Choral Fest.

The children and some parents from Lemont Montessori seemed to really enjoy their experience of both singing and coming into the museum and seeing our displays. Santa was definitely a hit with old and young alike. All the cookie bakers deserve a round of applause for coming through for us each year.

P.S. A little history on our Choral Fest that I happened to look up was that the first one occurred 18 years ago brought forth as an idea by the late Cerina Mitchell. It has endured to the present because of each of you willing to step up to the plate.



### Special Donation

We recently received a donation that to me had special significance. The new part owners of the Old St. Patrick School, Sal & Pam, stopped by to ask if they could donate creche wooden carved statues that were left at the old school. I, of course, could not wait to feast my eyes upon them. There was something familiar about them as I unwrapped each one, like touching my past, and we did accept the donation. I plan to put them out next Christmas under our museum Christmas tree, so keep that in mind if you wish to see them. The stable was donated by Paul and Claire Cimino and were used by the late Ida Kaminski, who's family I am sure you know were the Brown's. History can really be fascinating as the old enters into our modern age. I am not sure our present gadgets will really survive the test of time as some of our artifacts from the past have done.



**SOCIETY NEWS** by Susan Donahue (continued from page 5)

**Stepping Back In Time**

“Oh, 2018 how did you start? Why by being blessed by Patricia Dalman Knight’s Matching Challenge to kick off the new year, of course.

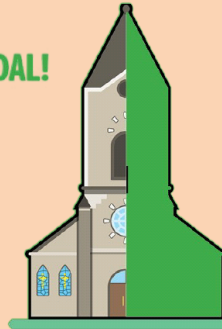
**PATRICIA KNIGHT MATCHING DONATION FUND**

**WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!**

**\$10,000+**



**=\$20,000 FOR LAHS**



\$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

It was then “Drinkin With Lincoln” and snow drifts paralyzing the town’s streets – and yet, happy revelers could not stay away to wish Honest Abe a Happy Birthday with cake and smiles on their ruby cheeks.

We ventured into something new at our February Volunteer Luncheon as we tried Korean cuisine at Lemont House and found to our delight yummy goodies to satisfy our appetites.

We had some fun raffles along the way, the Super Bowl and the Red Wagon to name a few.

We marched in the St. Patrick Parade – with our green banner waving proudly And although few in number our Irish for the day eyes twinkled with glee.

There was the Mayor’s Golf Outing where we happily volunteered to sell chances on gift baskets. The weather was ideal!

We also volunteered for the Classic Car Show. We had the joy of telling people where to go. When they didn’t listen, we called the men in blue.



We were at Heritage Fest with the Photo Booth, and who can forget Bingo? That delightful game draws a few players and always has a winner!

## SOCIETY NEWS *by Susan Donahue (continued from page 6)*

### Stepping Back In Time *(continued)*

This year our team, The Quarrymen, had the honor of playing and winning on Iowa's *Field of Dreams*. The field is coveted by many but only achieved by a few. Way to go Quarrymen!



We remembered those from the Civil War at the monument's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. General Grant reminded us that freedom has a cost that can never be repaid.

*Into The Devil's Reach* is coming out in 2019! The film had scenes shot at the LAHS. While none of the members appear in it, the museum and Lemont take center stage in this flick that is sure to please.

We took part in the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Illinois by giving group tours of downtown & quarries. We will do it again in 2019.

We had a new feature called "Trivia Nite." It quickly became apparent that most of our memories were on hiatus or played hooky.

There was less time to collect for "Tag Days," but it was decent enough I would say.

We traveled on a new attraction - The Quarry Queen! It bedazzled and entertained those daring to venture on darkened, spooky streets.

The *Hocus Pocus* showing was a crowd pleaser! "Hoorah!"

The "Masquerade Ball" first came across as a new fundraiser idea that brought masked fun lovers to the bewitched scene.

Our new young volunteers named Mark and Landon, composed a song, "Old Stone Church Blues" - a sure Top Ten in the New Year.

Free Research Days in our library was assisted by the pro's - Barb, Gail, & Terry - who can find a needle in a haystack!

Our museum outside sparkles with new paint thanks to your donations and our garden shines because of the Lemont Garden Club.



2018 you did us good – Thank You!