

CORNERSTONE

Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18, 1pm-3pm

Open Mic at the Old Stone Church

June 2, 8am

June Hike with Richard Lee

July thru August

Lemont: Then and Now 2 Exhibit
at *The Lemont Center for the Arts*

September 15, 2pm-4pm

Our Town: Lemont
at *the Lemont Public Library*
History of Lemont's waterways, quarries,
railroads, religious institutions, schools, and
businesses with archival photos



Thank you
Athens Marble Club
for your support!

VILLAGE OF LEMONT LEMONT TOWNSHIP
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 2019

Dear Members,

Graduation time is upon us again. Congratulations to all of you and your family members that will be graduating from either grammar school, high school or college. Once school is out, hopefully, you will have some time to relax and enjoy the summer (if it ever warms up) with your families.



We have been really busy around the Old Stone Church and would like to take some time to thank our members for all of their help. We have been doing some painting, electrical work and general clean up. We would like to thank Terry Blanz, Tim Collins, Rick Homerding, John Quinn and Bruce Taylor for all of their hard work. It really makes a difference. Maintaining a 160 year old building is always a challenge.

With Memorial Day around the corner, please keep in mind that it is not about the 3-day sales that retailers promote or partying over the long weekend. It is about taking time to remember the departed who died while serving our United States of America. Please take some time to remember these heroes.



All the very best for a safe holiday weekend and start to your summer.

Sincerely,
Sue

“Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.”
- Bo Jackson

GENEALOGY CORNER

Genealogy: Not Just For People

By Barb Bannon

The terms Genealogy & Family History Tree are often used interchangeably when speaking about researching ancestors. The idea of a tree goes beyond just tracking great-great-grandpa. One definition of Genealogy from Merriam-Webster is “an account of the origin and historical development of something,” “the study of ancestral lines,” or “pedigree.”

Knowing the pedigree of a thoroughbred horse is very important to horse breeders when making the decision to purchase a young horse. The same goes for any dog breeder producing prospective show animals. Visual identification of a breed is only 25% accurate even when made by professionals. They need to do their homework.

Do you have an interest in music? Which came first: Rockabilly or Bubble Gum? Is your favorite music Pop, Rock, Jazz, Blues, or Country? There are websites dedicated to the developmental history of specific genres. Some websites have even used the family tree ancestral chart to show a particular lineage.

Are you always working on a classic car? Research which car maker owned which car brands or where a particular brand came from and how the corporate giants of today were developed. Learn what startups didn't make it along the way and which companies that did last weren't even car companies when they began their life.

There are genealogy sites for other interests; some trace the development of languages, sports, the history of time zones, and even one where you can keep track of the Descendants of Chaos at “Greek Gods Family Tree” in case it's all Greek to you.

Many interests are researched in much the same way as ancestors for a family tree. There are different degrees of genealogy, and we can determine how far in to the gene pool we want to dive. The tools we have available now make it easy to do research anywhere at any time, from just our phone. We just have to utter the words “Alexa, who”, “Google, when....” or “Siri, where...” to get started with genealogy research.

Genealogy is easier than ever, it's not just for researching ancestors, and it's certainly not just for Grandma anymore!

**Genealogists are time travelers;
a great genealogist is a time unraveler.**

Connecting Branches



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

Maureen Bergquist researching – **Ryan, Gaffney, Rouse, Sheppard & Wilcox** families

Tim Collins researching – **Griffin & Leonard** families

Kovas family researching – **Louis Kovas burial location**

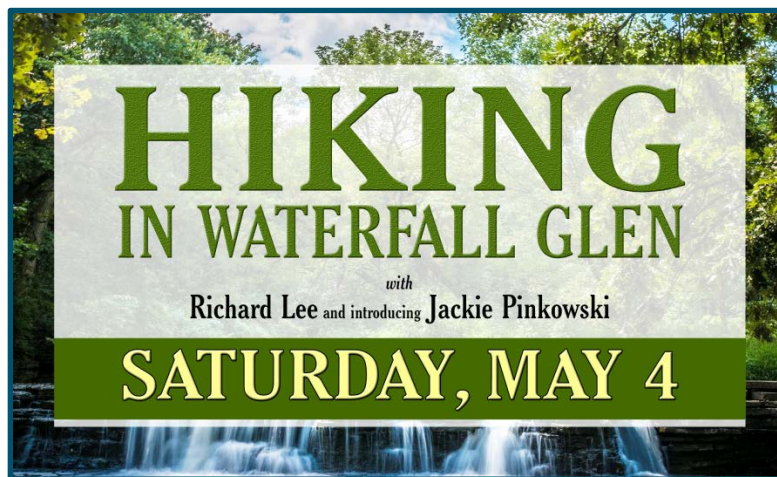
If you have any info on these or other families or would like to contact other genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the **Museum 630-257-2972** or by e-mail to lemonthistorical@gmail.com

MORE FROM OUR WRITERS

May Hike in Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve

by Charmaine Drafke (with commentary from Richard Lee)

It was 8 am on a brisk spring morning as eager hikers gathered for a trek through Waterfall Glen. The group included some newcomers to the area from Schaumburg and some former Lemonters who moved to Kankakee when the village got *too big*. The walk took them through Poverty Prairie, the remains of the Lincoln Park Nursery, and the Lemont Lookout that offers a beautiful view of the valley.



Many of the hikers inquired about future hikes, especially around the quarries. Richard told them we would try to have one or more each month through seasonable weather, and he directed them to our Facebook page where they had initially learned about the event. We plan on having another hike in June to *Old Signal Hill* in Waterfall Glen.

Richard introduced Jackie Pinkowski as a new trail guide at the May hike, and he is looking to train a couple more guides for the area for the future hikes. Another hike will most likely include a visit to the waterfall built by the Civilian Conservatory Corp. in the 1930s.

With the success of social media marketing, we hope to see larger crowds at the future hikes. If anyone has any questions about the trails or future hiking events, please contact the historical society.



May 2019 WFG Hikers

SOCIETY NEWS *by Susan Donahue*

THE LAHS VOLUNTEERS

Updates

Well our Society moves along either like a snail or a road runner. We are fortunate enough to be adaptable. I was thinking of the upcoming events and how we play a role in our community of Lemont.

Our first major volunteering assignment will be the "Classic Car Show" which is sponsored by our chamber. I wonder how many of you know that they do have a new name. It is because they joined with Homer Glen in forming the "Heritage Corridor Business Alliance". It is nice that both of our communities have been able to join forces.

I don't know if you have ever gone to one of the "Car Shows" but it is a fun time for classic car buffs. Part of Main & Canal is closed off to vehicular traffic and the scene is filled with vintage cars of the past. You can browse at your leisure and either reminisce or wonder how it would be to drive one of these gems down the highway now.

One of the rules, of course, is not to touch the car itself and current car owners are right nearby to make sure you only look.

Our organization has volunteered for this for over ten years. It usually is the same group of people. We guide the vintage car owners in and make sure new vehicles are not entering, etc.

We used to have a new t-shirt each year to put on with a very large sign on the back stating in no uncertain terms: "VOLUNTEER". Now we have graduated to electric green vests that have "VOLUNTEER" on them. If there is a problem we have walkie-talkies to call for help. You see there are people who feel they need to go down a street even with signs that say "DO NOT ENTER" and obstacles. One of our volunteers says, "I love to volunteer and tell people where to go – old men especially!"

We have been out in the cold with gloves and hats – still making sure our t-shirts are visible or warm weather where bottled water is a must.

People are generally nice and yes, we have had those who argued with us about spots, but all in all a good experience. They announce who the volunteers are from for that night which gives the LAHS publicity.

In one case because two of us were near the train station directing people someone approached us for help. You see he had been distracted and had ended up boarding the wrong train and wasn't quite sure where he was or how his wife could find him to pick him up. She was waiting for him in Naperville and no, she had never been to Lemont. We were able to guide her to Lemont and they were very happy and relieved to finally be reunited. They thanked us profusely.

Last year when others volunteered I wanted to see how many vintage Police cars there were. It was really something as they entered with their sirens blasting. I kept wondering what people thought who did not know it was for the show and not real. Cool! We are always happy to help and it can be fun!

STEPPING BACK IN TIME *by Susan Donahue*



You know thinking about the next few months reminded me of “Tag Days” coming up on Friday, June 14th & Sat, June 15th. Yes, you will not be disappointed to learn that we will again be asking for volunteers to help at Jewel and Walgreens this year. **Your help is crucial** to pull it off and we are very grateful. The milk jugs are getting ready to make their seasonal appearance. I know some think they look hokey, but also home spun and old fashioned, which in many ways is the spirit that still thrives and makes us unique. We are also grateful that these businesses allow us to solicit funds on their properties.

It gives all of us an opportunity to connect with the public and reassure them that Lemont is a classy town with a first rate historical society and museum.

Answers to questions asked on any given day while standing out in wind storms, and yes, even nice weather:

- 📄 No, we are not a church group.
- 📄 Yes, we sponsor an old fashioned baseball team called the “Quarrymen”. They are fun to watch. Come and enjoy!
- 📄 We have exhibits in the lower level and you can trace your family roots if they were Lemonters by super capable genealogists.
- 📄 No, there is no apt upstairs where someone lives, although many times some feel it is their home away from home.
- 📄 Is the museum haunted? You will have to be the judge of that.
- 📄 Do you do weddings in the chapel? Yes. Please let people know we do them and to contact us to see the beautiful chapel – it is a perfect setting for a wedding, baptism, or memorial.
- 📄 Is the Society part of a cult? No!
- 📄 I hear you now have what is called an “Open Mic.”
What is that all about? People can come in and perform music, poetry, etc. We have young volunteers who have formed a house band called, “Landon James & the Hound Dogs” – talented too. Check it out.
- 📄 I love the “Pub Crawl” – you will have it next year, right? As long as the public comes we will have it.

We do on occasion get thanked for the service we do here in Lemont and it is always a warm, fuzzy moment when that happens and leaves us energized.



50th ANNIVERSARY *by Susan Donahue*

Lemont Area Historical Society Celebrates 50 Golden Years!!!!

I know for many of us we find it hard to believe that the Lemont Area Historical Society has been preserving our rich history for 50 Years! In the beginning we were a fledging organization held together by people who believed there was something about our town's beginnings, struggles, and triumphs that was important enough to save and to pass along to future generations. This small, but determined group, came together rolled up their sleeves and said, "We can make this happen!".

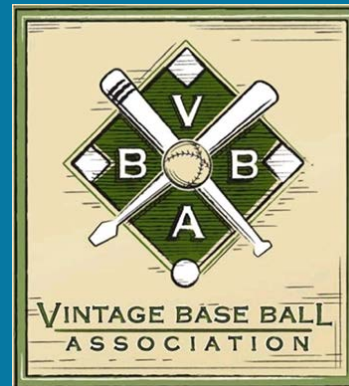
The Lemont United Methodist Church, where some of our members belonged, was in the process of building a new church with donated land by the Brown family. They wanted to sell this church? – rent it out? – but although attempts were made it seemed like a hopeless situation.

Enter a group of history zealots whose first meeting occurred on April 10, 1970. The minutes state that they had approached the Park District but no federal funds were available. Mrs. Florence Polk reported on her study of the new Lockport Historical Society. Our group was unanimous in its vote to research the proper requirements and ways of setting up an organization. Mr. Regis Mathy suggested all present sign the registry so that an accurate record be kept of the beginning of the Lemont Area Historical Society. Those present were: Sonia Kallick, Florence Polk, Bernice Johnson, Howard Johnson, Harry Swanson, Donald Urick, Regis Mathy, Elaine Mathy, Madeline Hamelen, John J. Zimmer, Gloria Egermier, and Sylvia Savage. I would be remiss if I did not mention the dedication and devotion of Tom Ludwig, who spent countless hours helping our fledging organization besides those already mentioned at the first meeting of our group

On May 5, 1970 the second meeting was held and Mrs. Polk stated the letter was well received from our group by the Lemont United Methodist Church and they had encouraged our organization and hope we could secure sufficient funds. Interesting fact: The land was appraised at \$5,000 and the church at \$5,000 making a total of \$10,000. The heating bill for a year was \$400. This is a list of the committees from the newly created organization: Chicago Historical Society Research; Publicity; Invite LME Church to attend; Information on State Historical Societies; and Ways & Means of Financial Support for the Organization. At the end of this meeting coffee was served.

You know all of this is interesting to those of us who appreciate the determination of those who proceeded us. It has been quite a journey of sacrifice and hard work by countless volunteers to get to this point. You can look at our building, once a recruiting station for the Union Army, now having landmark status; with the white steeple that still graces our limestone building and be reminded we got to this point because people from the past had a vision and mindset to bring us here. They were willing to do whatever it took to make it happen. We owe them a debt of gratitude and to us who have been passed the torch a resolve to preserve our treasured history in this special building we are proud to call "Home" and to instill the same passion to future generations.

WHO IS READY FOR BASEBALL AND SUNNY DAYS?



LEMONT QUARRYMEN			2019 Schedule
May 5	2:15 PM 3:30 PM	Away	Creston Regulators Oregon Ganeymedes
June 1	Noon	Away	Sunset Hill Farm Colonels
Jun 9	2:00 PM	Away	At Naper Settlement Vs. Chicago Salmon
June 22	Noon	Home	Sunset Hill Farm Colonels Somonauk Blue Stockings
June 29	2:00 PM	Away	Blue Island Brewmasters
July 13	11:00	Away	CANTIGNY RED OAK FEST Dupage Plowboys Creston Regulators Aurora Town Club Somonauk Blue Stockings
July 20	TBD	Away	LINCOLN FEST ON 66 McLean County Prairie Chickens Somonauk Blue Stockings Dupage Plowboys Creston Regulators North Bloomington Scrubs
July 27	1:00 PM	Home	Blue Island Brewmasters
Aug 11	Noon	Home	Creston Regulators Milwaukee Juneaus
Aug 17	TBD	Away	MILWAUKEE FEST Milwaukee Juneaus Rum River Rovers Milwaukee Grays
Aug 25	1:00 PM	Away	Somonauk Blue Stockings

Home field located at Mt. Assisi Field - 13900 Main Street, Lemont, IL 60439
 Lemont Area Historical Society | (630) 257-2972 | www.lemonthistorical.org



LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Located at the *Old Stone Church*
306 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Lemont Area Historical Society Membership Form

Date: _____

Welcome to the Lemont Area Historical Society Family!

- Please check your Membership/Benefactor category and fill out the form.
- Make your check payable to: Lemont Area Historical Society.
 - Additional donations are tax deductible and are very much appreciated.
- Mail (or drop off) to 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439 or stop by the Museum. If you have any questions, please call: (630)257-2972.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday and Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Please enter my membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society.
Enclosed are my dues in the appropriate amount as indicated below.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Athens Marble Club</u> | \$1000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Family Member</u> | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Friends of Keepataw</u> | \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Individual Member</u> | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Quarry Club</u> | \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Senior Citizen Member</u> | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Life Member</u> | \$200.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Student Member</u> | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Corporate Member</u> | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Additional Donation</u> | \$ |

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

What would you like to get involved in? Tap into your talents!

- Exhibits
 Genealogy
 Volunteering
 Programs
 Oral History
 Wedding Committee
 Home Registry
 Sunday Museum Guide
 Group Tour Guide
 Light Maintenance

Memorial Plaque: The Lemont Area Historical Society also has a Memorial Plaque where names of loved ones are engraved. \$10 (minimum) donation.

In Memory of: _____
(name to appear on plaque)

Donation Amount: \$ _____