

# CORNERSTONE

*Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter*



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 9/2 - 8:00 am  
Labor Day Quarry Tour
- 9/15 - 2-4 pm  
Lemont Public Library - "Our Town" History of Lemont - 50th Anniversary Kick-off event
- 9/20 - 7 pm  
Old Stone Church - History of St. James at Sag Bridge
- 9/21 - 1 pm  
Old Stone Church - Open Mic
- 9/26 - 6:30-9 pm  
Open House at Old Stone Church

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- 10/5 - 1-3 pm  
Free Research Day at Old Stone Church
- 10/5 - 8:30 am  
Fall Color Walk
- 10/6 1-3 & 4-6  
Ghost Tours (Booked)
- 10/11 7-11 pm  
Scary Movie Night and pub crawl on Quarry Queen (over 21)
- 10/15 7 pm  
History of St. James Cemetery - Old Stone Church
- 10/25 6:30 pm  
Hocus Pocus at Old Stone Church
- 10/26 1-3 pm  
Skull toss at Halloween Hoedown in front of Smokey Row Antique Shop



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

September 2019

Well, summer went by so fast, it should get a speeding ticket. I have never experienced a summer that flew by so swiftly. So here we are at Labor Day. Whether you work in an office, work from home, or even work from some exotic beach, all of us work in some form or another. Here's wishing that you are finding happiness and satisfaction in the work that you do. **Happy Labor Day**, everyone!

If you get a chance, you should take a walk and view the mural on the Lemont Massacre of 1885. Before Chicago's 1886 Haymarket Riot in Chicago, Lemont saw an uprising of its own. Two local artists, Rob Moriarty and Mona Parry, created this mural to spread the word about one of the most important times in the village's history. The mural is painted on the wall of Bonus Electric on Main Street. The scene depicts what is known as the "Lemont Massacre of 1885," which involved a labor dispute with Lemont quarry workers and owners. The battle was so intense that the governor called in the militia. Three men were ultimately killed and several men and women were injured. More info on the strike is posted on our Facebook page.



The "Lemont – Then and Now 2" art exhibit has ended at the Lemont Center for the Arts. I understand that it will soon be displayed at the Lemont Township Community Center. Richard Lee did a fabulous job of showcasing Lemont's history. If you didn't get to see it at the Art Center, try to make an effort to go to the Community Center. It will be worth your time.

The Canal Corridor Association's Passport Program celebrating 35 years of the I & M Canal being America's "First" National Heritage Area has kicked off. The program will run until August 23, 2020. It has already started attracting visitors to our museum and Village.

This month we begin celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Lemont Area Historical Society. On September 15th, we will have our kickoff event which is being held at the Lemont Public Library, "Our Town – Lemont", which, by the way, has sold out. I would like to thank Gail August for all of the hard work she has put into this program. Also, to Barb Bannon for assisting her. Over the course of the 50th anniversary year, we will be holding 50 events to celebrate! At this time, I would like to thank all of the current and past board members and all of the current and past members for contributing in preserving, protecting and promoting the history of Lemont.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president for 8 of those 50 years. It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with all of you. Thank you!

Get ready to get scared as Lemons Days again begins October 1st. The Village, The Park District, as well as the society has some fun events planned to celebrate the scariest day of the year!

We hope that you all have a great autumn and that we see you at some of the many events that are planned for the upcoming months.

Sincerely,  
Sue

## GENEALOGY CORNER

### Genealogy: A Picture is Worth a Thousand... Questions?

By Barb Bannon

When I found this photo my first reaction was *WOW what a great picture* and how lucky I was to have come upon this on the internet. One of the women was identified as a relative so my next thoughts were; *Who are the others in the photo? What building would this have been? Was this the home of a person in the photo? Where was this located?* This is typical of information found during the research of family history; one find usually generates more questions than it answers.

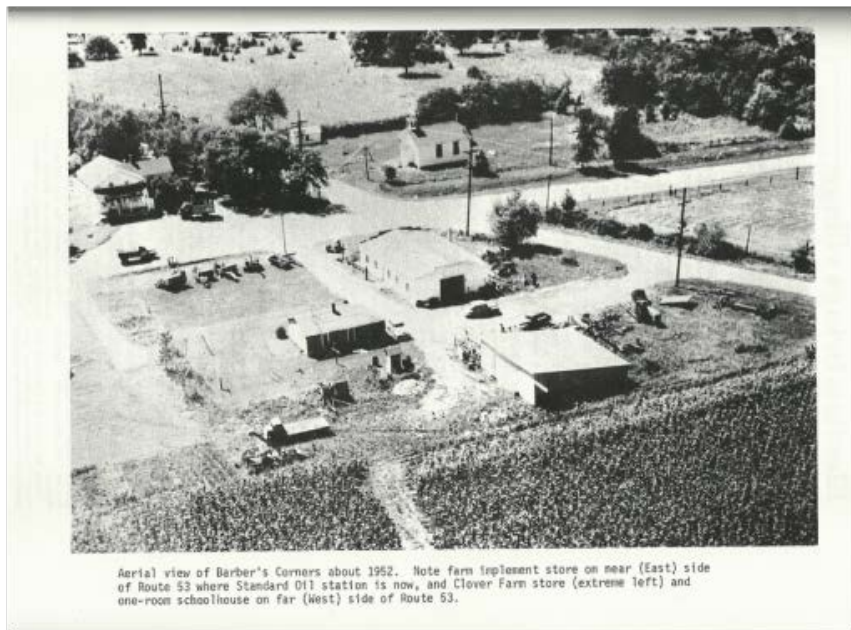
A newly found photo always initiates a family history adventure that gets my mind racing. I follow logical, step-by-step genealogy research when I'm dealing with another person's family history. When the photo belongs to my family, it's hard to rein in my tendency to jump from one resource to another searching for everything at once. To prevent this I start with what was just found, review what has been gathered previously, list what is missing and then what resources should be searched in what order.



To start in an orderly manner, I listed what I knew from the website; the photo was identified with two names, an approximate date and a location name. The two women were Clara Mather Hennes and Anna Graskey Eipers. The location indicated was Barber's Corners and it was taken after a tornado in the Fall of 1902.

The next step was to review any information I already had about the Mather/Hennes and Graskey/Eipers families. My family tree software revealed what I had remembered, that Clara Mather married my mother's Great Uncle John Hennes. My records didn't have anything on the Graskey/Eipers family other than Anna Graskey married Nicholas Eipers, which added another possible person in the photo. I also did not have any information about relatives living in the location called Barber's Corners, I had heard of it but didn't know where it was, exactly. So to the Google machine I went...

# GENEALOGY CORNER (continued)



Aerial view of Barber's Corners about 1952. Note farm implement store on near (East) side of Route 53 where Standard Oil station is now, and Clover Farm store (extreme left) and one-room schoolhouse on far (West) side of Route 53.

When I searched for the name “Barber's Corners” a website for Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission came up with a 1952 aerial photo showing a Clover Farm Store (upper left) and a one-room schoolhouse (upper center) along with some history of Barbers Corners, located in Du Page Township at the intersection of Route 53 and Boughton Rd.

I also found history of Du Page Township in “The History of Will County”, a book we have in the LAHS library. I found an interesting excerpt which tells of the beginnings of the area.

“In 1832 Captain John Barber journeyed to this area on his ship from Vermont through the Erie canal with his wife and children to

Old Fort Dearborn in Chicago. Traveling on the same boat with the family was General Scott's army - on a duty assignment to fight Chief Blackhawk in the Sac War. Aware of the dangers ahead, the Barber family made their way west to Du Page Township. There they laid claim to 211 acres on the East side of Rt 53 at Boughton Road founding a rural community, chartering the local First Presbyterian Church in 1833 and founding the Du Page Township Post Office at Barber's Corners.”

While I enjoy having some history of a location to add to the family history, I am still left with questions. Can I find out more about a storm that destroyed this building? Was anyone hurt? Who were the other people in the photo? Was this their home or an outbuilding? Now on to discover more about this photo!

To be continued...

**A picture is worth a thousand words... Are you going to write them?**

### Connecting Branches



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

Denise Carrera – researching Johann K(C)arsten & Antje Eden Families

If you 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](mailto:lemonthistorical@gmail.com)

# MORE FROM OUR WRITERS

## Lewis & Clark in Illinois

*By Pat Dalman Knight*



**Meriwether Lewis**

I recently traveled to an area of Montana that was an important part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I was fascinated by the story as I read *Undaunted Courage*, by Stephen Ambrose. In 1804, the Corps of Discovery Expedition traveled by water from Pittsburgh to St Louis, then up the Mississippi River to its confluence with the Missouri River. From there it moved westward up the Missouri into the land of the Louisiana Purchase to what is now Montana, and eventually crossing the Continental Divide to reach the Pacific coast. The book contains details of the challenges, the goals, the role of Thomas Jefferson, the American Indian tribes, and so much more. This is a sweeping adventure story by the bestselling author of more than twenty-five works of history.

So I wanted to know how the expedition touched Illinois. To my surprise and delight, I found the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site located at Hartford IL. Here is a link: [WWW.CAMPDUBOIS.COM](http://WWW.CAMPDUBOIS.COM). This is the site of Camp Dubois, the point of departure for the Voyage of Discovery on May 14, 1804 at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.. There is a visitor's center and galleries containing various exhibits. The website states, "The 14,000 square-foot facility, located at the Winter camp area of the expedition, will be the first site on the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail. A 55-foot full scale replica of the keel

boat used by Lewis and Clark will be the central exhibition. There will also be exhibits on Illinois and the entire expedition as well as a video to be shown in the

facility's theatre." Hartford is north of St Louis and west of Edwardsville IL, approximately 4 hours from Lemont. After reading Ambrose's book, I have to add the Camp DuBois historic site to my "must visit" list.



**William Clark & Meriwether Lewis**

**SOCIETY NEWS** by Susan Donahue

Well the summer is coming to a close and will soon be a memory. I was thinking of the summer and what it held for the Society. We had some very noteworthy happenings, like our museum lobby refreshed with new paint and the new light bulbs have made a difference in greeting visitors thanks to volunteers.



We had what I considered a remarkable occurrence as quite a number of visitors descended on Lemont from Poland. Some had interpreters. All were focused on our many churches, which are unfortunately closed except for services. If you have ever had to convey information from one language to another – it was interesting for both the interpreter and myself. A learning experience for all of us.

Yes, we will have an **OPEN MIC** again on Sept 21st. Reliable sources say there could be a person known for her singing in a group, quite well known in Lemont for other reasons, who might favor us with a selection or two of her repertoire – a Mystery Singer like on the TV show – Oh, I can't wait to see her revealed!

We really do gear up for the Halloween season and the feedback is quite interesting, at least to me. I remember a few years back when the idea first surfaced and I wondered how it would go over. Yes, I do remember going Trick or Treating when I was little, but would adults have that type of enthusiasm – hm? It has become the rage with people scrambling for tickets for our "Ghost Bus Tour". "Fright Nite" has proven to be a hit too. Can't say it is the fact that we are in a historic building, which lends itself nicely to the imaginary of ghosts lurking just around the corner, or a combination of it and the old coffin plus decorations and dimmed lights, but there is an aura that comes over the scene like a mist smiling sweetly with an axe waiting to strike an unsuspecting guest. You feel someone watching you, but when you turn around there is no one there. Boo! Hopefully I have set the mood for the next chain saw victim!



Now to lure you to a more calming scene before? Please take a look at our beautiful garden at the museum. All of this work and attention is because of the Lemont Garden Club and our members, Terry and Barb. Watching them in action they are tireless in their pursuit of having all the flowers and shrubs look point on. Weeds are not permitted in any form even if they have flowers as a disguise. They are quickly identified and removed. Homer Tree Service donated the supply of mulch. The *Rose of Sharon* that had multiplied at an alarming rate and threatened the balance of our garden were thinned out by a person on a mission with a cleaver striking without warning. Our gazebo is dressed in black luring people to visit the cool, shadowy flowered area where peeks of sunlight dash across the landscape like thorny fingers. It is a real delight to see how our garden has taken on a new life thanks to some very loving hands with the knowledge to know that the vine on the wall is poison ivy in disguise.

# STEPPING BACK IN TIME *by Susan Donahue*

It is always an adventure as I look back and invite you to join me on this journey of the discovery of our societies past. Exploring what to most of us is new and hopefully interesting.

Minutes from OCT 6, 1970: There was during Keepataw Days the first museum viewing by the public and as stated in the last newsletter there were 900 people counted who came in. In the aftermath of that viewing some suggested we have the museum open every day until 10pm. There had been three people working. One greeted people as they entered and two other volunteers were stationed downstairs. After the parade, in which two of our volunteers cars were in, there were antique cars on display in the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. parking lot. There was a Stanley Steamer owned by John Zimmer; Howard Johnson's Maytag; Regis Mathy's 31 Chevrolet; and Clyde Zimmer's Model A. Mr. Slattery displayed his old farm wagon.

Here is the exhibit items the Society had: a wall phone; Boe cigar factor; roll top desk from Mr. Mathy; Medals from Mrs. Bittles; Dentist Chair from Public School District 113; and a school desk from Mr. Dunk on permanent display.

Discussed Admission Charge: 50 cents from adults and 25cents from children. The signing of the Charter and type of character was discussed and Bernice Johnson and Gloria Eggermeirer were chosen to look into design, cost and wording.

On November 3, 1970 the admission fee for adults of 50 cents and 25 cents for children was approved. Card carrying members and children under 6 will be admitted free. As of this date we have 7 Life Members; 44 Yearly Members and 23 Student Members.

A Memorial Fund is to be set up for donations in memory of persons who have died. It is to be kept within the Society – no flowers are to be sent. Announcement was made of the Congress of State Historical Societies Meeting on December 4th and 5th. Registration is \$1.00 and Sat Luncheon -\$4.75.

Christmas Exhibit will be titled: "Christmas 100 Years Ago" and will feature toys, decorated trees; food; customs of different nationalities in Lemont; and utensils used.

On Dec 1, 1970 the Financial Report was given: Nov, 1970:Cash on Hand: \$886.12 \$33 Membership. Dec 1, 1970: Cash on Hand"\$919.12 New Count on Members: Life -10; Yearly -53; and Students – 26.

On Jan 5, 1971 an Emergency Meeting was called to discuss obtaining liability insurance in case of an accident or personal injury to a visitor. No local insurance companies were interested so a Chicago Insurance Co. was chosen.

The possibility of having a phone installed was brought up and Elaine Mathy will look into it. [to be continued next newsletter]

