

Cornerstone

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

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May/June 2018



Three Huzzahs! for the Lemont Quarrymen!

Get ready for the New Season of an
Old Pastime starting soon!

Home Opener May 20, 2018 at Noon
Quarrymen vs Creston Regulators

History buffs and baseball lovers have united to form the Lemont Quarrymen, a vintage baseball team. This club, ranging in age from 25-62, promises to showcase the way baseball was played in 1858. At matches, the Quarrymen will tend their bases and scout the outfield without mitts, always hoping that the "onion" is knocked their way. While at bat, the ballists strike with their willows to knock the "apple out of the orchard" or "cut some daisies" in order to tally more aces than their opponents. For these Quarrymen winning is nice, but its pursuit never dims their gentle-manly characters.

So, baseball fans, show some ginger and come support the Lemont Quarrymen this summer as they take on several rival baseball clubs. All spectators, cranks, bugs and charming deadheads are welcome to watch or participate in all games.

Home field located at Mt. Assisi field 13900 Main Street,
Lemont, IL 60439. More info (630) 257-2972
www.lemonthistorical.org

Upcoming Events

May 19 - Civil War Memorial
10-year Celebration
3pm Legion Park

May 20 - Quarrymen Home Opener
Noon Mt Assisi field

June 9 - Free Research Day
10:30am-12:30pm LAHS Old Stone Church

June 23 - 3rd Annual Quarrymen
Vintage Baseball Classic
DuPage Plowboys, Elkart County Railroaders,
Milwaukee Juneaus, Somonauk Blue Stockings,
Sunset Hill Colonels, Vermillion Vols,
White River BBC
Starting 9:30am Mt Assisi field

July 14 - Heritage Fest
Old Time Photos & Bingo
Quarrymen vs Douglas Dutchers
at "Field of Dreams"
7 pm Dyersville, Iowa

August 18 - Quarrymen Home Game
vs Blue Island Brewmasters
& Sunset Hill Farm Colonels
Noon Mt Assisi field

Sept 7 & 8 - Tag Days





President's Message...

May 2018

Dear Members,

Congratulations to the parents and grandparents that will be celebrating the graduations of their children and grandchildren from grammar school, high school or college. It is something to be really proud of and I hope all of their dreams come true!

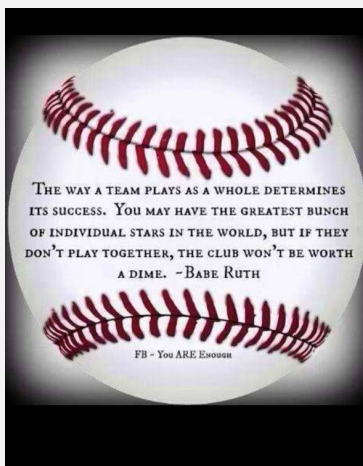
"When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me."- By Mr. Fred Rogers

I want to again thank everyone who has generously contributed to Pat Dalman Knight's generous challenge to our community. As of May 15th, we have reached almost 50% of our goal. No donation is too small. If you give \$5 it becomes \$10 and the society appreciates anything that you are willing and able to give. It is something that will contribute to keeping Lemont's history alive for future generations.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Lemont Civil War Memorial in Legion Park. It will be celebrated May 19, Saturday at 3 p.m., with music, refreshments, and speeches by General Grant from Galena, IL. It has recently been updated with new names of Lemont Township volunteers. According to Sonia Kallick's book, Lemont had a quota of 33 men but sent 293 volunteers into battle, the second highest Township in the state. Also, this weekend, the Lemont Quarrymen will be playing their first home game against the Creston Regulators at noon on Sunday, May 20, at Mt. Assisi Field. **HIP HIP HUZAH!!!** The "Boys of Summer are back!"

On June 9th from 10:30 – 12:30, LAHS will be having a "Free Research Day". You should take advantage of this great opportunity and possibly urge folks you know that have wanted to investigate their family history, but never did. Encourage them to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

June 23rd will be our 3rd Annual Quarrymen Vintage Base Ball Classic. The Quarrymen will be battling 7 other vintage base ball teams from different parts of the Midwest. It is a nice relaxing day and rumor has it that Abe Lincoln will be playing an inning or two! Hope to see you at some or all of these events.



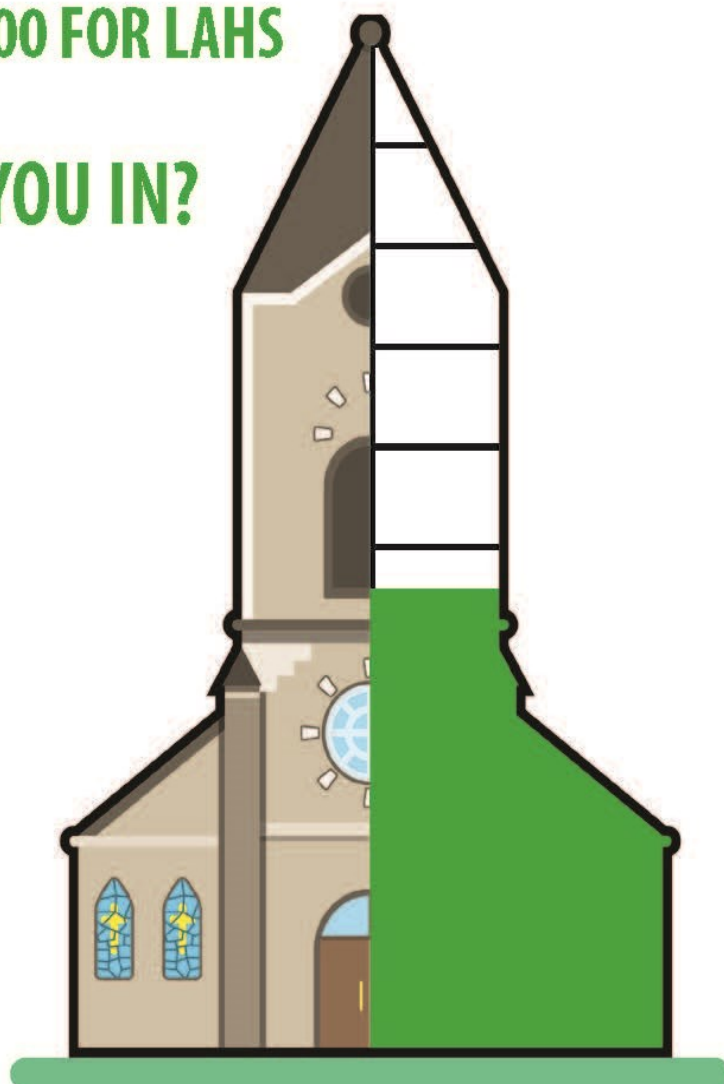
All the very best to all of you and your families for a happy and safe Memorial Day!

Ralph Waldo Emerson once asked what we would do if the stars only came out once every thousand years. No one would sleep that night, of course... We would be ecstatic, delirious, made rapturous by the glory of God. Instead the stars come out every night, and we watch television. -

PAUL HAWKEN

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 **\$4,530**. We've almost reached half of our goal! 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
Gail & Jack Ahrens
Sal Alfano
Gail August
Joe & Barb Bannon
Lisa & Thomas Bitsky, Sr.
Terry Blanz
Ealee Bromberek
Jeff Bromberek

Pat Browne
Gail & Gerrie Cassidy
Citgo Refinery
Susan Donahue
Carol Garibay
J.G. Garvey
James & Mary Jo Grandall
Bill & Barb Gwodz
Terrie Jungles
Wm. Kerns

Mary King
Richard Lee
Rita Ludwig
Becky Malak
M. Kay Manning
David Molitor
Ken Novak
Rich & Linda O'Connor
Donna Paris Petrowiak

Gary & Susan Roy
Jeff & Amy Rutter
Bruce Taylor
Pam Schmitz
Annette Simon
George & Linda Stoops
Sandy Wall
Gary & Mary White
E.D. Wiles

New Revolution

By Richard H. Lee

Our nation's revolution for independence from England was crude and had few soldiers but finally succeeded with divine assistance and blessing. I saw on the Internet an interesting story, "Just a bunch of kids right? What can they do?" It referred to notable volunteers and leaders in our independence movement who were quite young and probably inexperienced.

The list of volunteers included the Marquis de Lafayette, age 18 in 1776, James Monroe (also 18), Alexander Hamilton (age 19), Henry Lee (age 20), Aaron Burr (age 20), and Nathan Hale (age 21). They got the job done but it took a few years. Today, right now, our young people are taking the fight on gun control to the country's aging leaders and it looks like they are going to persevere until changes are made and the NRA corruption is reduced.



The New York Times, which I check online about daily, had a front page article on this hot story, "Returning to school where 3 classmates died" and a catching photo of the high school students in Parkland Florida. It was the first day of school in two weeks after the shooting that killed 17 teachers and students. Now there is talk of having armed guards for schools and possibly churches where people have been murdered by guns. What if our young people took the issue of climate change and the environment to state and national leaders and representatives? They might take notice, especially when young people who can vote support research and change.

Lemont Waterways: The Sanitary Canal

by Pat Camalliere

This is my favorite canal—okay, I know—that's strange, to have a favorite canal. But what a canal!

The ambition was huge. Nothing like this had ever been done. The Sanitary District of Chicago was going to move the Des Plaines River into a new bed, and use the old riverbed to excavate a new canal, with a system of locks to reverse the flow of the Chicago River. It became known locally as "The Chicago School of Earth Moving".

And the canal was huge. It ran 28 miles from Chicago to Lockport, averaging 150 feet wide and 22 feet deep. It took 8500 men and an assortment of newly-designed machines to remove 29 million cubic yards of soil and 12 million cubic yards of rock. In comparison, the Suez Canal is 82 feet wide and is excavated in sand, not stone. The machines and techniques developed to construct the Sanitary Canal were used to train people who constructed the Panama Canal some years later.

Picture of men in crane basket during construction of crane basket during construction of the Canal in Lemont, 1895 e Canal in Lemont, 1895.



The equipment, newly designed just for this project, was remarkable: a grading machine pulled by 16 horses, fifty steam shovels, and a dredge 23 feet wide and 50 feet long, for instance. The picture above shows the capacity of a large crane basket, in this case filled with tourists rather than stone. I thought the dog was a nice touch. Construction was occurring at the same time as Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893, and the country, indeed the world, was in the midst of an age of technology; the automobile had been invented but was not yet in general use.

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SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue



Membership Renewals

Definitely appreciate how diligent our members are in renewing. I also consider it a good sign that you want to continue to be part of our organization. We are indeed fortunate to have all of you contributing to the success of the LAHS. Please know we do appreciate your contributions and sacrifices.

MUSEUM TOUR

This past month we had a very nice group of people come in from Westmont. The tour was arranged by the Westmont Park District. They were quite attentive and also commented on some of the items in our downstairs displays that reminded them of their own childhood and growing up.

One of the questions that they had on their minds was, "Our Hills". Many said they would not live here because of the terrain and how in the world do you people manage in the winter months when there is snow?" I told them our Village Public Works is very dependable in making sure that our streets are clean and we are able to maneuver.

Another question that did come up was, "Where are all your antique dealers? Years ago there were so many in your downtown." I did tell them that we do have a few still in town like "Smokey Row" and "Mabel's Market" and encouraged them to come back for a visit and check out our town on their own. They were going to a restaurant in Frankfort for lunch. I had hoped it was one of our own restaurants, but did clue them in on some of ours just in case they do come back independently. All and all a good day.

Sidenote: I had a visitor come in who loves to go hiking and biking and he had never been to Lemont before and he decided one day after hiking that he would come into Lemont and go to dinner. He was amazed by the number of taverns we have in our downtown and I let him know this is minor

compared to our early years. He was blown away by that and he said it reminded him of towns out West he had visited that were gold mining communities at one time. I told him, "Just one of the unique charms like our hills that add color and flavor to our small town and have made us special."

WEDDINGS

This year we are going to have quite a few weddings in June. We also have gotten an inquiry for 2019, which at this moment seems a long way away, but we can appreciate how quickly time moves on and how stressful coordinating church and banquet hall can be.

We have in past years also had the four legged kind of the best friend of the bride stand up. We never come to think of it have one that was the grooms. When we were first approached about this we were, "Oh, well let us think about this", but in the end we agreed if they were well behaved and assured they were we said, "Ok". We have been lucky that they have been no trouble.

In one case we had a charmer, who's owner stopped by before the wedding to introduce me to her "Best Friend". She knew for sure that he would think all the fuss at the wedding and the guests coming were because of his being there and had nothing to do at all with her or the groom. He seemed curious about me as if to ask, "So why do I have to be friendly to this total stranger? Seems ok but with all the friends I already have that stop by the house to visit me do I really need a new friend?" We hit it off, which did not surprise the owner.

"The Charmer"



Lemont Waterways: The Sanitary Canal
Continued from Page 4

Canal construction was such an event that the Chicago and Alton Railroad ran excursions of the construction sites, urging sight-seers to visit the sites for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to view the outstanding geological and mechanical features, describing it as "...the most stupendous and miraculous example of canal construction and channeling which the world has ever known...." People on the tour were encouraged to get off at any of six train stops, walk around the sites and machinery, and bargain for fossils, which were plentiful in the exposed stone walls.

Construction began in 1892, the Lemont section was finished about 1896, and the canal opened on January 2, 1900 (more about that in a future post). The terminus is Bear Trap Dam, now the Lockport Dam, which regulates the flow of the canal into the Des Plaines River. It is the only shipping link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

It is of note that the depth of the Lockport Dam is the same as that of the Niagara River, which connects to the Great Lakes, as does the canal. One might wonder what would happen if the dam were to fail. It has been said that Niagara Falls would run dry and Central Illinois would become a lake. I'm not going to comment about the truth of that supposition.

Genealogy Corner



Just Google It?

by Barb Bannon

Conversations are a give and take, an exchange of ideas; the more people that are included the more topics will be brought up and naturally more people will follow.

A good example of this is Facebook; an old photo posted there seems to jump start the conversation about the good old days. Someone identifies the people in the photo, someone else the location, the event, and then its off and running to another photo with a new person, location, or event, and more people join in.

This same process is great for researching family history, A group picture that includes one of your family members can uncover stories about your relatives from people that have no connection to your family tree. These stories can provide the history of an ancestor that you once thought impossible to find.

Not long ago you would have had to physically take or send a copy of a photo to a person to get the story behind the faces. Now with just a few keyboard clicks you can have that photo posted online to reach numerous people.

When I first heard about a researcher and his troubles in identifying a photo, his story reminded me of this brain teaser. Gazing up at the portrait that hung over the fireplace in his parlor the man remarked: 'Brothers and sisters I have none, but that man's father is my father's son.' Who is in the portrait?

A family historian struggled to identify the groom and others in his great-great aunt's wedding photo. He never knew her married name and decided to pose that question to other members of his family, but they only knew that the couple had no children. His continued research found nothing leaving him with only the photo to go by; he had hit the dreaded brick wall.

Being familiar with a number of social media sites, like Facebook, Instagram, Google etc., he posted the picture on a number of them. That post paid off big time, he was contacted by a third party that had recognized the photo. This gentleman was not a relative but had discovered the photo while doing research for his friend, the great-grandson of the best man, who was also not a relative. The best man's great-grandson knew the identities of everyone in the photo, and could provide information about the groom and his family, breakthrough!

There are a few sites related to family history for posting and searching for photos. Two that I have seen are Ancestors Lost & Found at <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/ancestors/> and Dead Fred <http://www.deadfred.com/> some are free and others are free to search but require a fee for full access.

Connections to people with information about your family history, are often made in unusual ways. Oh, and you probably have figured it out by now, the person in the portrait is the mans son!

Museum Hours

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and Friday

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

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

Library Hours

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - Noon

By Appointment



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

In looking back into the past there is a link to the present. I was thinking about that recently when I went to "Peterson Hardware". There is as everyone knows a person who knows the inventory of that store better than anyone. They have such a wide variety of hardware goods, etc. and I have at times simply went to the counter after looking for something and asked "Elsie" where it was to save time. She is the "Rock of Peterson's". The store is so much a part of her after all these years and you can tell she genuinely likes people. We have been fortunate enough to have such caring business people in our community.

I do remember going there with my dad for something he needed. In one case Mr. Peterson was showing my dad and me some of the fishing gear, guns, and trophies he had. Now my dad knowing me as he did knew this would invoke as many questions as there were answers.

Mr. Peterson was very patient and one story led to another. I enjoyed myself immensely. When we eventually got home my mom asked my dad, "Tim, I thought you were only going to Peterson's and Strand's. They were crowded?" "No, Art was showing us some of the things he has on his walls as prize possessions and Susie needed to ask him why each item meant so much to him." I thought if I didn't ask how would I know.

Strand's was another spot that my Dad and I would go and pay a bill. I can still remember seeing the late Pastor of St. Cyril's, Fr. Nosal, with his trademark cigar standing in the aisle almost like holding court as several people would gather around him catching up on the latest town news. Now, yes, I do go to St. Patrick's Church, but I think everyone in town knew Fr. Nosal. He was friendly and in that time frame to me was bigger than life.

Recently the former owner of "Budnik's", Sue Little, donated the "Budnik" sign, which Rick Homerding, Bruce Taylor and John Quinn hung up in our "General Store" display. Please come and see it. Some people remember it had an ice

cream fountain where they enjoyed root beer floats, green rivers and ice cream sundaes. It was also where they had a pharmacist on the premises who would fill prescriptions. A family owned and operated business until it closed there was a small town feel to the place. When we give our "Downtown Walking Tours" we always point out the fact that there are what appears to be urns on the top of the building. Many people are not aware of the fact that it was in a sense advertising. If you saw that symbol no matter if you lived here or if you were a visitor you would know that there was a resident pharmacist in that business that could fill your prescriptions. A clever way in that time period before Google to get the word out I would say.



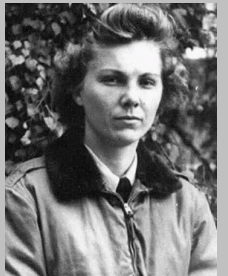
NOTE: Please consider being interviewed by two very nice ladies: Darlene Blanz and Lenore Duffy from Lemont Township and share your stories of family and friends from the past to the present. I do have the contact info. for them. Thank you.

Female POW Finally Recognized Forty Years Later

by Pat Knight

An article about a female veteran recently caught my attention. Lt. Reba Z. Whittle was the first and only female U.S. military member held as a prisoner of war (POW) in the World War II European Theater. Serving as a nurse, her casualty aircraft was shot down over enemy territory, September 27, 1944. Whittle was repatriated on January 25, 1945 and returned to the U.S.

The fact that she was a POW is certainly a story in itself. But that is the short story, interesting in itself. The longer story is that it was not until 1983, when the Department of the Army was honoring Army and Navy nurses who were captured and imprisoned by the Japanese that Reba Whittle was at last given official POW status she deserved. Unfortunately, she would not see that recognition as she had passed away from cancer in 1981.



Look how far we, women veterans, have come since then. The Department of Veterans Affairs reported as of September 30, 2017 of the almost 20 million veterans in the U.S., approximately 1.9 million are women. I had no idea the number of women veterans would be that large, even though I am one. Wow!

Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson, currently serving as a four star general, attained the highest rank in 2014 of any woman who has ever worn the uniform. What would the conversation be like between Lt. Whittle and Gen. Robinson if they met today?

FREE RESEARCH DAY

Lemont Area Historical Society

Saturday June 9th 10:30am to 12:30 pm

Members and Non-members

Want to know where 4A is or where your Aunt Rosie lived?

Access to the library's resources FREE OF CHARGE

Volunteers will be on hand to help in your search

Come join us and bring your questions!

(or bring your photos, documents etc. to donate

we will scan on site and return originals)

more info 630-257-2972

maps

Cemetery Books

Yearbooks

newspapers

Family History Files

photos

census

Lemont Home Registry

School Attendance Records