

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
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JULY/AUGUST 2018



## Coming Events

- July 10<sup>th</sup> "Then & Now" Photo Exhibit/Sale  
10am-2pm Historical Society Museum
- July 14<sup>th</sup> Heritage Fest  
Old Time Photos & Bingo  
Quarrymen vs Douglas Dutchers  
At "Field of Dreams"  
7pm Dyersville, Iowa
- July 21<sup>st</sup> Canal/Quarry Walking Tour  
9am meet at Heritage Quarries parking lot
- July 28<sup>th</sup> Downtown Lemont Walking Tour  
4pm meet at Historical Society Museum
- Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Summer Picnic & Quarry Tour  
aboard the "Quarry Queen" bar car
- Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Canal/Quarry Walking Tour  
9am meet at Heritage Quarries parking lot
- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Quarrymen Home Game  
vs Blue Island Brewmasters  
& Sunset Hill Farm Colonels  
Noon Mt Assisi field
- Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Downtown Lemont Walking Tour  
10am meet at Historical Society Museum
- Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> Masquerade Ball  
"A Night of Magic and Mystery"  
6pm Slovenian Center



## Veterans Among Us

by Pat Knight

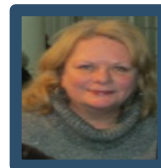
It is Memorial Day 2018, and I am thinking about friends who served in the US military. While contacting members of my Lemont High School class for our next reunion, I came across a recent obituary that really struck me. It told me my classmate had received the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, among other awards, during service in the Vietnam era.

The Silver Star Medal is awarded for gallantry in action and is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded for either heroism in a combat zone or meritorious service in a war zone.

Many people around us, just like my classmate, served in the US Armed Forces but we do not even know it. I wish I had asked my friend and classmate, George McCutcheon, about his service. Maybe we all should ask.



## President's Letter



Dear Members,

Welcome Summer 2018! Hopefully, you and your families will be able to take some time to spend together and enjoy the nice weather and had a wonderful 4th of July holiday. Heritage Fest will be here soon and we will also be celebrating the State's Bicentennial with exciting endeavors around Lemont. From what I understand, President Lincoln will be attending Heritage Fest. The Village, the Canal Corridor Association (<https://iandmcanal.org/bicen/>) and the Historical Society will be participating in the State's Passport Program (<https://illinois200.com/>) beginning July 1st and running through the month of November. Our museum will increase its hours during this time period by opening on Thursdays. Also extra tours have been scheduled by Gail August to accommodate visitors participating in the Passport Program. Hopefully this will attract more tourists to our Village and museum.

***"Illinois had the first aquarium built in Chicago. The very first skyscraper in the entire world was built in Chicago in 1885. The tallest building in North America, formerly the Sears Tower, now Willis Tower, is in Chicago. Evanston, home to Northwestern, is also home to the ice cream sundae. Illinois has a lot to be proud of."*** - By Mr. Brad Schneider



The Bicentennial Commission's executive director, Stuart Layne, describes the logo as "Twenty-one gold stars - marking Illinois' 1818 entry into the union as it's 21st state - surround a blue outline of the state. In the middle of the bicentennial logo is a gold colored "200" in a white sunburst with rays emanating in all directions. The sunburst in the middle of the state outline portrays the impact Illinois has made on the country and the world over the past two centuries and the bright future we aspire to for the next 200 years." We hope that you and your families will enjoy some of the Bicentennial events.

We want to again thank everyone who has generously contributed to Pat Dalman Knight's generous challenge to our community. As of June 25th, we have reached almost **50%** of our goal. Some members have been giving memorial contributions towards the challenge and there is a member that is donating each month as a budget item. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity. No amount is too small to give. It is something that will contribute to keeping Lemont's history alive for future generations.

The Lemont Quarrymen had a great tournament on June 23rd and 7 teams came from 3 different states to participate - The DuPage Plow Boys, the Elkhart County Railroaders, the Milwaukee Juneaus, the Somonauk Blue Stockings, the Sunset Hill Farm Colonels, the Vermilion Voles and the White River BBC. President Lincoln also showed up for the games. The weather was perfect! We would like to thank all of the participating teams, the President (Kevin Wood), our kranks and our volunteers for making it a memorable event.

Also, we hope to see some of you at our summer picnic and quarry tour. On the evening of August 10th, we will be picnicking at the gazebo by the quarries and taking a ride on Lemont's very own bar car, the "Quarry Queen". Seating on the Quarry Queen will be limited. Call the historical society for more details. All the very best to all of you and your families for a happy and safe summer!

Sincerely,  
Sue



## SOCIETY NEWS

By Susan Donahue

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

We do really appreciate your renewing your membership. We are also happy to have some new members join us. It is one of the ways we can continue to not only keep the museum running but help to maintain it. I think we have come up with some great ideas over the years to reach out to more of those who might have never heard of us. Hard for me to believe since we do publicize ourselves in so many different avenues like our Website and Facebook but you will have to trust me they are out there.

### SUMMERTIME:

These past weddings were held in our fan friendly atmosphere on some of the hottest days we have had recently. I like the groom who at the rehearsal told his groomsmen that, "Yes, it is a 1861 church that has no air conditioning, because that is what was the norm in that time period. Now no friend of mine is a wimp so suck it up and deal with it. This is where we want to have Our Wedding!"

Carol Garibay, who is the Chair of the Wedding Com, had the wedding on Friday. She said the bride at that wedding had the most beautiful dress.

Now the wedding I took care of didn't have as many in attendance. I think some might have chosen not to attend because after the church the hall was not air conditioned either. It was nice though having just those family and friends that were the closest to them come.

In this case I thought the bridesmaids dresses were very pretty. They wore long dresses in orchid, sleeveless and the bodice was in lace and they wore shiny silver high heels. They carried bouquets of white and soft pink roses

The brides mom wore a long navy sleeveless dress with sequins on the neckline; grooms mom wore a short electric blue dress and grooms stepmom wore a black long dress in chiffon with silver accents.

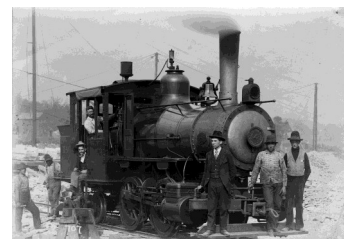
Now on to the bride: Normally the bride and her dad line up in the office doorway after the chapel doors are closed. In this case the dad waited in the vestibule and his daughter exited the office and said, "Dad, does this dress look familiar?" He looked and said, "Your mom wore something like that on our wedding day." The bride embraced her dad and said, "It is mom's dress. I had a few alterations but it is the same dress." He was blown away by this. Very heart touching and sentimental I think, don't you?



## LAHS Prints for Exhibit and Sale

By Richard H. Lee

When the Lemont Center for the Arts contacted us, the historical society, we were in the process of updating our archival framed prints that were at the Village Hall starting in 1986. Many of those photos were small sepia-toned originals that had faded from exposure and needed to be scanned to digital format and returned to their file folders. I found several old photos that captivated me so I decided to make a few copy prints and frame them in those old frames.



They suggested an exhibit, "Lemont Then and Now" to show some history and modern photos of these old scenes like the stone quarries. Businesses and transportation photos were another selection topic. We eventually supplied 13 framed prints with 3 of them paintings but decided we would not sell those but prefer to make copies for possible buyers. I continued to finish this project and make a few more copy prints for framing for possible exhibits or sale. Now we have a good collection of historic framed prints we can display or sell. The Public Library was interested in an exhibit like this so we arranged and delivered about 14 prints to display on their new walls.

Stop by the museum July 10th, 10am to 2pm to take a peak at our selection of framed prints on display and available to purchase for your personal collection or business. Photos from our archives "Old" and "New" depicting scenes such as canal boats, trains and more.



# Genealogy Corner

## Search Everywhere

by Barb Bannon



Much information we collect as genealogists comes from documents and records we seek out in libraries, historical societies and online. We tend to ignore items that are just as important as census records, obituaries or land records. Hidden away in boxes or drawers, attics or basements are baby memory books, funeral sign in books and greeting cards filled with facts, hints and sometimes photos.

The books used at wakes for people to sign are a more recent tradition. Years ago people used their homes where family and friends would bring food and pay their respects visiting with the family. Later years brought the funeral home and services of a director. Books were put out to record those attending, assisting the family in sending thank you notes. These books were usually packed away and likely never opened again. Regarded as nothing more than just a bunch of names and addresses; but that's the point, names and addresses are a gold mine for a family historian.

The names are of a specific group of people in which a genealogist is most interested. Relatives, friends and possibly work associates that genealogists can use to grow the story of a relatives' life. Individuals write their names in their own hand and that helps with research immensely. My grandfathers funeral book left no doubt as to how and which families spelled their name Schmidt, Schmitt or Smith, an answer I never found in other records.

Addresses can be used as a substitute for a census that has not been released yet and give locations to zero in on for more information from newspapers or city directories. Many books contain the names of pallbearers, cemetery, funeral home, out-of-town relatives and sometimes include photographs or newspaper clippings.

Another source sometimes hidden in nooks and crannies are greeting cards. Just recently I was looking through a few small boxes; stored away and long forgotten. Inside one of them were cards saved by my mother, they were from a special birthdays, anniversaries or just cards she especially liked. What I found was as good as if I had opened a baby memory book.

One was one of those "Pages of Time" cards from her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, with highlights of the year she was born; Herbert Hoover sworn in as President, Buster Brown shoes, loaf of bread 9 cents, new car \$450, gallon of gas 12 cents and life expectancy 54.1 years. But it was what had been added to the card that made it an item to cherish. Her sister was nine years older than her and had written an account of the day my mother was born; she had also included a first birthday picture. If I had not gone through all of those cards I would have lost a snapshot in time that could never be retrieved.

If you are wondering where to find more leads for family information, search everywhere and look at everything, even items you may think boring or insignificant. Leave no stone unturned, you may discover more than you expected.

***This pack-rat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.***

-Ellen Goodman, The Boston Globe

## Baseball the Navy's Goodwill Ambassador

By Quarrymen player Dan "Chicken Legs" Smaczny  
National Museum of the American Sailor Contract Curator

For years the students at Merizo Martyrs School played baseball on a raggedy field in the village of Merizo, Guam. That changed when the NAVFAC Marianas Self-Help Seabees of U.S. Naval Base Guam volunteered their time to refurbish the George Leonard Charfauros Baseball Field in May 2016. The Seabees showed the children what their "Can-Do" work ethic could do.

The United States Navy has teamed up with baseball to spread goodwill for nearly 150 years. In the 1870s Navy teams played against local teams in Japan. Around the turn of the twentieth century America's global presence was expanding. The Navy helped to bring knowledge of America to the world and baseball led the way.

From December 1907 to February 1909, the Great White Fleet, state-of-the-art ships painted white, cruised around the world. Each battleship formed a baseball team. The teams competed throughout the cruise, including games in Australia and Mexico, ending with a "world series" in Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka).

The Navy has used baseball to extend public awareness on the homefront for more than one hundred years. The drill squad from U.S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes captivated the fans as the Chicago Cubs triumphed in their April 24, 1918 home opener at Weeghman Park (now Wrigley Field) over the St. Louis Cardinals, 2-0. Prospective recruits could then take the train up to Great Lakes, about thirty miles North of Chicago, after being impressed by the Sailors from the Station.

Baseball as the Navy's ambassador was on the world's stage in 1918 at the U.S. Army-Navy championship game, played on the 4th of July at Stamford Bridge in London, England. The game attracted a huge turnout featuring King George V and Winston Churchill.



By the 1930s the Navy brought baseball to many countries including China, Nicaragua, Holland, and Brazil. And on April 22, 1948 the Navy played baseball in Ireland for the first time after more than twenty years. 22,000 people attended a game between the USS *Fresno* (CL 121) and a team made from the USS *Johnston* (DD 821) and the USS *William R. Rush* (DD 714) at Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland.

After World War II the Navy started to replace baseball with softball as a recreational activity. The Navy would still attend professional games for community outreach and to promote recruitment by singing the National Anthem, throwing out first pitches, and having enlistment ceremonies before games.

Sailors are often in attendance at military appreciation nights such as when Quarter Master 1st Class Johnnie Hong appeared and signed autographs at the Everett Aqua Sox Military Appreciation Night at Memorial Stadium on August 19, 2006.

The U.S. Navy participates in the Pacific Partnership, a five-month humanitarian assistance initiative that visits places like Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Equipment Operator Constructionman Kevin Mitchell Juirre raised spirits when he played in a softball game at the 2011 Pacific Partnership 4th of July celebration in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

Baseball's role as an ambassador for the Navy harkened back to its 1870s beginnings in a softball game in Shimoda, Japan in May 2012. The crew of the USS *McCampbell* (DDG 85) and locals from Shimoda competed in a friendly battle. The Navy's partnership with baseball continues to promote the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment on ball fields from Mexico to Micronesia.

Want to learn more about baseball and the U.S. Navy? Visit these websites:  
July 4, 1918, U.S. Army vs. U.S. Navy baseball game <https://www.mlb.com/cut4/king-george-v-watched-american-baseball-in-1918/c-275791064>  
BEECAM: Play Ball! Seabees Refurbish Guam Baseball Field <http://seabeemagazine.navylive.dodlive.mil/2016/05/19/beecam-play-ball-seabees-refurbish-guam-baseball-field/>  
For more about the National Museum of the American Sailor <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmas.html>

The Lemont Area Historical Society Presents

# A Night of Magic and Mystery

MASQUERADE BALL

September 22, 2018 | 6 pm

Slovenian Center  
14252 Main St  
Lemont, IL 60439

**\$75/Person**  
www.paypal.me/OldStoneChurch/75  
email - lahs.eventcommittee@gmail.com

**AUCTIONS**  
  
MUSIC | ENTERTAINMENT | OPEN BAR | APPETIZERS | DANCING | PHOTOGRAPHER

Featuring Svengoolie!  


**SPLIT THE POT RAFFLE**  


All Proceeds Benefit The Old Stone Church

**Masquerade**

must be 21+ to attend

The Lemont Area Historical Society (LAHS) is having a formal masquerade ball! LAHS will be hosting

### ***A Night of Magic and Mystery!***

at the Slovenian Center on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Tickets are \$75 each and include an open bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Entertainment will include Svengoolie, fortune tellers and psychics, a magician, and music. There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Old Stone Church that houses the Lemont Area Historical Society museum of artifacts and archives.

You can buy tickets at [www.paypal.me/OldStoneChurch/75](http://www.paypal.me/OldStoneChurch/75) or contact LAHS at [LAHS.eventcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:LAHS.eventcommittee@gmail.com) to pay by cash or check. Check out the Facebook event at [facebook.com/groups/lahs.eventcommittee](https://facebook.com/groups/lahs.eventcommittee) for more information.

Membership price of \$65 has been extended to August 1st!! This price is good for you plus one guest. You can buy them online using PayPal at [www.paypal.me/OldStoneChurch/65](http://www.paypal.me/OldStoneChurch/65).

## ***Stepping Back in Time***

Well we are gearing up for “Heritage Fest,” July 14, this year. Now we will have the **Photo Booth (4-6pm)**. There are many who enjoy dress up as you can see by this couple featured. You also get the opportunity of having your picture taken by the “Handsome Photographer Bill Uznanski”, who does on a regular basis remind us that this is “His Title”.



**Happy Customers!**

We also have Bingo at the Fest. Yes, we will have it this year and I expect to see many of you there having a great time at this crowd pleaser. Now personally I have never seen a large group of people playing, but this could be the year!

Carol Garibay, Gail August and I will be there and a few other volunteers to create a fun experience. The trains and the outdoor music blend into the atmosphere as we either shout out the numbers or suddenly become experts at hand signals. One year we actually used tennis balls to compensate for missing numbers. Oh, what a joy it was to see them half stuffed into the small container after the number was called. Often they tried to escape but in this case Sue Roy and I were too fast for them and scooped them right up as they tried to bounce their way to freedom.

**By Susan Donahue**

We have also learned from diehard Bingo fans that it has to start exactly when advertised even when there are only two people playing. At times we have also played so that the pot when split will give a decent prize. We, of course, never call out that magic word. I remember one time we had only four nuns playing who were thoroughly enjoying themselves as one by one they took turns winning.

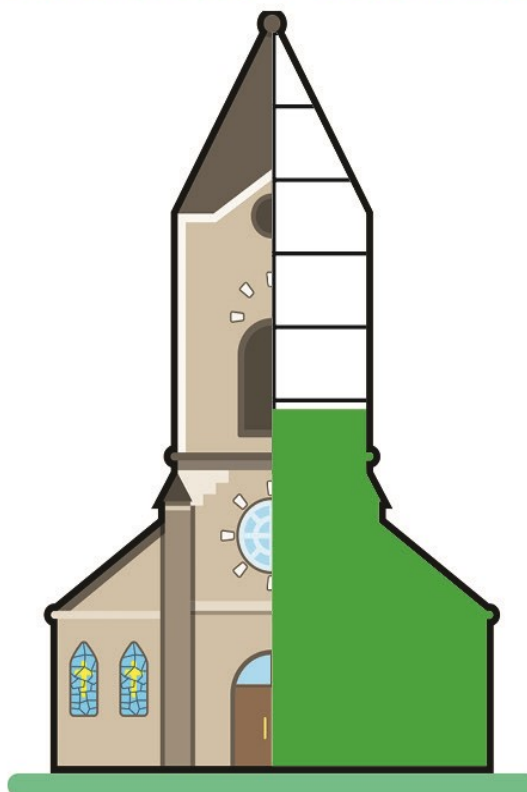
We also have a cover all on the last game by popular demand. You can just see the tension and excitement mount as we only have a few more numbers left to call. Our caller these past years has been Rick Meyer, who spins folksy humor and clever sayings as the players roll their eyes, laugh or groan in what we take to be appreciation.

If you are planning on coming down to Heritage Fest please stop by and play a game or two. You will be under a tent for covering against the sun, or a downpour. **Budnik Plaza. 5-7pm.**

This is a game that has been played for many years and we are a “Fest Must Have” we have been told but without any of the problems of having an unruly crowd or attracting one. Friends comment they missed seeing us and would have played. How they missed us calling out, “**COME PLAY BINGO RIGHT HERE!!!**” is a mystery to us – perhaps we entered a fifth dimension at that moment– became invisible? **We have heard a rumor that Pres. Lincoln might drop by to play – now that will be a must see I would think, don’t you!**

# 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 **\$4,810**. 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  
Marge Malkosky  
M. Kay Manning  
David Molitor  
Ken Novak  
Rich & Linda O'Connor  
Donna Paris Petrowiak  
John Quinn  
Karen Rodde

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

### **In Loving Remembrance Matching Donations Given By:**

Sandy Wall in Memory of her Husband, Don Wall

Kenneth Novak in Memory of his Aunt & Uncle, Louis & Joanne Novak

Barbara Buschman in Memory of Family Friend, Richard Forzley