

Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society

306 Lemont Street

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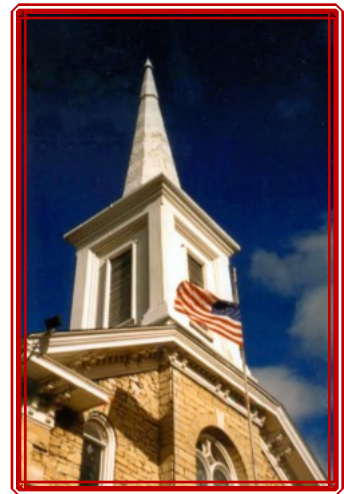


Photo by Richard Lee

September—October 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 15th Canal/Quarry Tour

9 AM meet at Heritage Quarries Parking Lot

Sept 22nd Marquerade Ball

"A Night of Magic and Mystery"

6 PM Slovenian Center

Sept 25th General Membership Meeting

7 PM Lemont Area Historical
Society Museum

Sept 29th Downtown Lemont Walking Tour

4 PM meet at Lemont Historical
Society Museum

Oct 12th "Toasts to the Ghosts"

7 PM Heritage Quarries Recreation Area

Oct 20th Downtown Lemont Walking Tour

10 AM meet at Lemont Area Historical
Society Museum

Oct 26th Hocus Pocus Movie Night

7 PM Lemont Area Historical
Society Museum

The Lemont Area Historical Society Presents

A Night of Magic and Mystery

MASQUERADE
BALL

September 22, 2018 | 6pm

Slovenian Center
14252 Main St
Lemont, IL 60439

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

AUCTIONS


Featuring
Svengoolie!


**SPLIT THE POT
RAFFLE**


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

Masquerade

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 maintaining 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 or contact LAHS at 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.

President's Letter



September 1, 2018

Dear Members,

Goodbye Summer 2018! This summer just flew by. Hopefully, everyone was able to take some time to enjoy the nice weather and spend time with family and friends. This weekend we will be celebrating Labor Day, which pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of the American workers. It also symbolizes the end of summer and kids going back to school or off to college. It is my favorite season!!

'Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.'

Albert Camus

In honor of the Bicentennial, our museum will continue with its increased hours through November. The Passport Program has been bringing many visitors into the museum, and the extra tours that Gail August, Susan Donahue, Doris Peterman and Richard Lee have been conducting have been a great success. They have been attracting more visitors to our Village and museum, so the tours will also continue throughout the Bicentennial celebration. Thank you to Gail, Susan, Doris and Richard.

Through the efforts of Lemont's very own First Lady Louise Egofske, the Lemont/Homer Rotary Club has given LAHS a grant to purchase Past Perfect, a museum collection management software program. Louise, who is the Club President, is also coordinating Rotary members, who will be providing LAHS with approximately 50 hours of volunteer time to get this project up and running. This is something we really need to do in order to further preserve and protect the many photos, collections and archives that the Old Stone Church holds. We are very grateful for the efforts and generosity of Louise and the Lemont/Homer Glen Rotary Club and look forward to working with them on this undertaking.

Again, we would like to thank everyone who has generously contributed to Pat Dalman Knight's challenge to our community. As of August 28th, we have exceeded our goal by over 50%. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity. No amount is too small to give. We would like a special thanks to go out to Donal K Quaid, owner of Nick's Tavern, and his son, Don Quaid, owner of Mosquito Squad, who sponsored special fundraisers for LAHS. They both volunteered to sponsor these fundraisers without us even asking them to do so. I would ask that we all patronize their businesses in appreciation of their endeavors and generosity. Thank you all for contributing to keeping Lemont's history alive for the future.

The Lemont Quarrymen has a great 2018 season. On August 18th, our last home round robin was held against the Blue Island Brew Masters and the Sunset Hill Farm Colonels. President Lincoln was able to take time from his busy schedule to arbitrate. The Field of Dreams was fantastic, but I will let you read about that in Dan "Chicken Legs" Smaczny's article, which is part of this newsletter. I would like to thank the Quarrymen, President Lincoln (Kevin Wood), the Sisters of Saint Francis of Christ the King at Mount Assisi, all our volunteers and kranks for contributing to this great experience and successful season. We really hope to see more of you at the games in 2019. It is a wonderful way to spend a relaxing afternoon while watching base ball of the 1860's come to life.

We have some exciting fall events approaching, starting with an inaugural Masquerade Ball. I hope you can join us for a night of magic and mystery on September 22nd! Svengoolie will be our special guest along with music, tarot card readings, a magician and many other surprises! The committee is working very hard to make this an exciting and successful event. I am sure it will be an evening to remember! Although the discount period is over, you can still get tickets at the museum, through PayPal, or at Smokey Row Antique Shop – so please spread the word.

Some other fun fall events include our "Toast to the Ghosts" on the evening of October 12th. We will be taking a ghost tour of downtown Lemont and the quarries aboard the "Quarry Queen." Seating is limited, so call soon to get your tickets. Then "Let us Put a Spell on You" on October 26th as we will be magically transforming the Old Stone Church into Salem to watch Disney's 1993 Halloween cult classic Hocus Pocus. Hope you can join us celebrate fall and Halloween at these events.

All the very best to all of you and your families for a happy, safe and fun fall!

Sincerely,
Sue

Heaven...Indeed

By Dan "Chicken Legs" Smaczny

July 17, 2018

On July 14th the Lemont Quarrymen Vintage Base Ball Club journeyed to Dyersville, Iowa. What's in Dyersville? The Lansing Family Farm, better known as the Field of Dreams Movie Site. The Quarrymen, who play baseball by the rules used back in 1858, shout words like "huzzah!" and phrases like "hurl that onion," played two games on the famed ball field. They were victorious in their matches versus the Douglas Dutchers of Michigan and Indiana's Elkhart County Railroaders.

Thunderstorms were predicted for Saturday night, but the baseball gods provided a picture perfect sunset for their two games and another between Douglas and Elkhart.

Even though they'd played this game since they were children some of the ball players had butterflies in their stomachs that night. Nerves sometimes bring out your best. Patrick "Hush Puppy" Boland certainly had his best stroke as he put two balls into the corn in left field.

The night wasn't just special for the ballists. Harkening back to Kevin Costner's memorable line in the 1989 classic film "Hey Dad. Do you want to have a catch?" Mike "The Cure" Ciurej and his dad, Don got to relive that storied moment by playing catch behind the backstop after the Quarrymen's second game.

During that second match, this article's author, Dan "Chicken Legs" Smaczny took a break from his role as catcher to take some photos. While leaning against one of the light posts he thought, "Am I dreaming? Are we really playing on THIS field?" The same field that Ray Liotta, playing Chicago White Sox baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson, queries "Is this Heaven?" and Costner replies "No, It's Iowa."

Yes, Chicken Legs and the Quarrymen got to play on that fairy tale ball field. And having their family and friends on the sidelines made it Heaven for them.

For more information on the Quarrymen check out the team's page on their sponsor, the Lemont Area Historical Society's website <http://www.lemonthistorical.org/quarrymen.html> and on the team's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lemontquarrymen/>.



Many thanks to Nick's Tavern & Mosquito Squad Lemont for their generous support of LAHS!

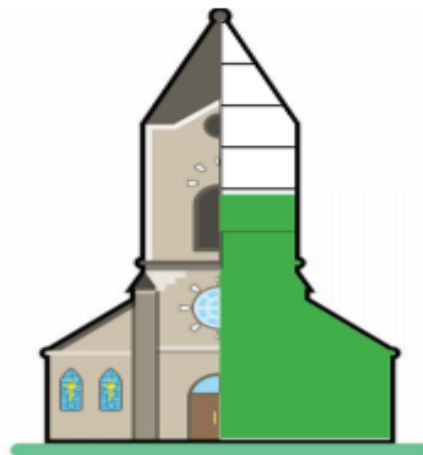
We couldn't do what we do without continued donations from friends like this!

"By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer's best of weather And autumn's best of cheer." -Helen Hunt Jackson



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 **\$5,960**. We've reached over 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
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David Molitor
Rick Nelson
Ken Novak
Rich & Linda O'Connor
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Don Quaid
Donal K. Quaid

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

Celebratory Matching Donations Given By:

Susan Donahue to commemorate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jim & Gail August



Genealogy Corner



Calling All Leads

by Barb Bannon

I remember as a child dreading the fundraising for school. We picked up those tan cardboard boxes with built in handles; they were packed with “gold bars” wrapped in white, imprinted with three famous words. Those boxes you would rather dip into than go door to door selling. I'm sure everyone in town was tired of answering the door to again hear “Would you like to buy World Famous Chocolate?”

Is it possible this could be the reason I never sought out any cold calling type sales job? Not likely, but I dislike contacting people I don't know by phone, although not making that type of call puts a kink in genealogy research. My motivation to call came recently when I found a photo on the internet.

Research of my husband's mother had not been very fruitful, she had passed away when he was young and we didn't have much information about her family. Few photos of his mother or her family were available and in snapshots we did have, she was the only one we could identify. Until now!

One evening, focused on just her family I started “fishing” internet images. Searching with her married and maiden name, I viewed photo after photo, finally finding one where the girls looked just like his mother. A coincidence? Possibly, but they were too similar not to be related. I clicked on it hoping to get a lead, I did, but to a name that had no known connection. My motivation had arrived; now the hunt to find a contact number.

You would think I was a stalker, the way I searched all the people finder sites available. I had accumulated possible phone numbers, but now what. Never had I considered cold calling a tactic for research, although professional genealogists do it all the time. They have no connection to families other than being paid by them to find information. I decided my own research is worth just as much as a paycheck to a professional so I took a deep breath and called.

But how to start. Being prepared is a must; I reviewed the little information I had about the family, names, approximate dates of birth, death, and towns the family possibly lived. These items would help to confirm or discount a potential relative during the conversation. I gathered my questions and had the picture available, ready to describe it in hopes that one of these prospective connections would lead to the owner.



I started down the list, after an introduction of myself and reason for my call, all I hoped was that they wouldn't think this was a scam and hang-up. On the third call, success, I found the grand daughter of one of the sisters in the photo. In the few minutes we talked, I discovered they live less than 25 miles away and her 92 year old father has many photos and stories to share. Yes, this was Joe's mother's family portrait with her 10 older siblings and her mother, taken about 1917 after his grandfather's passing. Would I do this again? I sure would. Don't put off making a call! Be prepared, review your history, organize your thoughts and expect the unexpected!



In honor of Illinois statehood in 1818, this year the state of Illinois celebrates its bicentennial. As part of the statewide celebration, The Lemont Area Historical Society has teamed up with the I and M Canal National Heritage Area, The Illinois Office of Tourism, and the Illinois Bicentennial Commission to participate in the Illinois Bicentennial Passport.

The guide lists 56 participating passport stops and encourages residents and visitors to collect passport stamps at each location.

Lemont's contribution to the bicentennial is a new temporary exhibit that features one of the challenges faced in 1818, which was the coming together of Native American and settler cultures. A free handout is available as long as supplies last describing Northern Illinois in 1818 along with biographies of some notable Indian leaders of the day. Stop in, pick up and/or get your Passport stamped, and see the exhibit at our museum!

Following is an excerpt from the free handout detailing the life of Black Partridge, who lived in the Lemont area:



Black Partridge was a major Potawatomi chief, best known for his actions during the battle at Fort Dearborn in 1812. During the years prior and immediately following the battle of Fort Dearborn, Black Partridge lived near the Chicago area. Dates conflict in the literature, but a reasonable estimation based on events of the time would put his birth in 1742 and his death in 1818.

His Potawatomi name has been spelled many ways on the multiple peace treaties he signed during his life: *Mucketeypokee*, *Mucktypoke*, *Mka-da-puk-ke*, *Mucutay Penay*, *Makadebakii*, *Mkadébkí* for instance.

Black Partridge was a chief of significant stature and noted intelligence. He was highly respected by Native populations as well as whites. He was unusually tall, muscular, and handsome. He dressed simply with little adornment, yet made a commanding appearance.

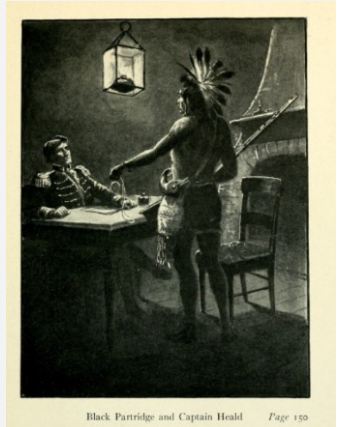
After the American Revolution, the Northwest Territories (now the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin) had been ceded by England to the new United States. No consideration was made for the Native Americans who lived there. This led to disputes and battles.

Black Partridge was known to have fought against the United States in the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, but after the battle he was one of the chiefs who signed the Treaty of Greenville, essentially relinquishing authority in the Northwest Territories to the United States. At the signing, he was given a peace medal, of which he was inordinately proud. He remained friendly to the U.S. from then on.

Early in the War of 1812, the various tribes in the area that is now Northern Illinois were happy with the U.S. for pushing the Indians off their land and reneging on promises. Many fought the Tecumseh and the English against the Americans. Black Partridge, and his younger brother, Waubensee, remained friendly to the U.S. against a hostile element made up of young men from multiple tribes who were determined to attack Fort Dearborn.

Continued on page 7

Illustration from Black Partridge, or, The Fall of Fort Dearborn / by H.R. Gordon. ... Ellis, Edward Sylvester, 1840-1916.



Black Partridge and Captain Heald Page 150

Although Black Partridge was the most prominent leader present, he was unable to control the young warriors who were not of his tribe. He went to Captain Heald at Fort Dearborn to warn him of the impending attack. In what must have been an emotional scene, he handed his prized peace metal to Heald, saying he could no longer wear it since he was unable to restrain the warriors.

Some call the attack that took place at Fort Dearborn a battle, others a massacre. As the soldiers, families, and escorts left the fort to escape to Fort Wayne, they were attacked by a large force of hostile Indians. Black Partridge was present to try to save the Americans he considered friends. Among these was Margaret Helm, the wife of the fort's second-in-command and stepdaughter of John Kinzie. The photo below is that of a sculpture depicting this act. Black Partridge is reported to have stayed the hand of a warrior about to strike Mrs. Helm, saying he himself would dispatch her. Instead he took her to the lake and pretended to drown her for appearance's sake, ultimately escorting her to a waiting boat where the Kinzie household took her to safety at St. Joseph, Michigan. He then intervened to see that as many as possible were taken prisoner instead of being killed.



Sculpture of the Fort Dearborn Massacre. Monument by Carl Rohl-Smith (1893). The sculpture portrays the rescue of Margaret Helm by Potawatomi chief Black Partridge. Currently in storage at the Chicago History Museum.

His intervention did not end there. Prisoners had been taken to various Indian villages, and Black Partridge was able to locate and negotiate the release of some. One of these was Lieutenant Helm, the wounded husband of Margaret Helm. Having obtained ransom from the U.S. Indian Agent, Thomas Forsyth, Black Partridge added to it personal gifts: a pony, rifle, and a gold ring. He then escorted Lieutenant Helm to St. Louis and released him to Governor William Clark (of Lewis and Clark Expedition fame).

Returning to his home, a village north of Peoria on the Illinois River, Black Partridge found that while he was helping his American friends, his village had been burned to the ground by rangers sent by Governor Ninian Edwards in retribution for the attack on Ft. Dearborn. Although most of the men were away at the time, the raid killed many women and children and burned the buildings to the ground. More died during the winter, as their food had been taken.

Nonetheless, Black Partridge remained loyal to the Americans and was instrumental in the negotiation and signing of additional peace treaties. On August 24, 1816, he signed a treaty which ceded a strip of land ten miles on either side of a line that would become a canal and wagon road. It was the completion of this canal (the Illinois and Michigan, or I and M Canal) that led to the growth of the city of Chicago. Black Partridge died at Peoria Lake within two years of signing this treaty.

Black Partridge Woods Forest Preserve, on a bluff of the Des Plaines River overlooking the village of Lemont, now bears his name. Whether or not Black Partridge resided at this particular spot, whether or not his activities to save the survivors of the battle at Ft. Dearborn took place there, it is well-established that the Potawatomi once lived on this bluff.

Written by Pat Camalliere, author of the historical mysteries The Mystery at Sag Bridge and The Mystery at Black Partridge Woods, and editor of the Sixth Edition of History & Anecdotes of Lemont, Illinois.

Visit www.Patcamallierebooks.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We wish to congratulate one of our steadfast volunteers, as she and her husband celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary!!!

Best Wishes Gail & Jim August!!!

NEW VOLUNTEER



This past summer we have had a very eager volunteer, Mark Weinberg, who wanted to be a Tour Guide at the museum. I wrote up a short narrative for him to help him. At first it was the lower level exhibit area that he started out with and now it is both levels. Thanks to his very patient parents, who were willing participants to help craft his tour skills on frequent visits, he has done quite well.

He now is entering 8th grade here in Lemont and has told me that unless he has a lot of homework or has somewhere to go on weekends he will be here. He had come in from time to time when he was younger and it seemed to be one of his goals to help with tours. I am sure his parents are very proud of him as well as his grandparents. Visitors seem to be quite impressed with not only his age, but his enthusiasm. We are always looking for volunteers to help us and the youth of our community are paramount to helping us continue the rich history we have been entrusted to preserve. Thank you, Mark, for stepping up to the plate!

MOVIE ACTION – QUIET ON THE SET!!

Yes, we are again in our movie mode. Lemont has really been discovered by Hollywood. I gather our vintage, small town feel of Lemont, has become a mecca for the movie industry. There are three movies being shot here. Two are draped in mystery. We have added to the aura by having at the museum “Fright Nite” – “The Talking Dead” who decided since it was raining they might melt and preferred to talk in the museum and not on the street – “Horror Movie Night” – and soon “The Masquerade Ball” with Swengoolie, Magicians, etc – we are contributing to people’s imagination that anything is possible and now it has become the “In Thing” to experience. How cool is that, that we are on the cutting edge!

Photo from Movie 2018 “Into the Devil’s Reach”



“Quiet on the Set Take Three! Action!!”



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

Some of my friends have teased me about my sudden knowledge of the movie industry. Yes, this is going to be the theme for this newsletter from me. Lucky You!

I can still remember being in my office at the museum, which was closed for the day, and suddenly hearing the key in the lock and the door opening. I stood there looking at the person I had never seen before and wondering, "Ok, now who is she, how did she get a key, and what is she doing here?"

My questions were answered as I saw someone from our Village accompanying her and they were also surprised by my being in the building. It happened that it was the Location Manager Maria and the museum was rented and became a small church in Arkansas for the movie. The movie was, "Children on Their Birthdays" co- starring Barbara Buschman and myself – yes, Tom Arnold was in the movie, but Barb and I really knew he was just a supporting actor.

It was fun and a new experience. Barb and I went into Chicago to pick up our costumes as we were, "Flower Judges". We were given credit and belonged to the Actor's Guild. We went on location to a turkey farm (that had no turkeys that I saw) in Homer Glen. We had make – up people give us finishing touches to our characters appearances. Fun!



The second movie was "Anquish" filmed at the museum. I am in the beginning scene in a cameo. Now this new movie had a limited crew compared to the previous two films shot here. The writer from Homer Glen wrote, "Into the Devil's Reach" and is financing the filming of this thriller. They took over my office for their headquarters. Volunteers Barb Bannon,, Terry Blanz, and Pat Camalliere took two hour shifts and were in the choir loft keeping an eye on the museum. It is always interesting and although for me the day was long from 8:30am-9:30pm. there is something that draws you in – Hollywood Magic! We had only the major actors on set so no guest appearances from any of us. I deduced it was so none of the professional actors felt threatened by all of our talents! The prop person showed me the guns – all three – to be used with blanks so I could feel confident that no one would by accident get hurt in a scene.



The Rotary Club of Lemont - Homer Glen

AUTUMN **Charity Craft** **Beer Tasting** DURING...

LEMONTSTER DAYS



Thursday
September 27, 2018
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Featuring Award
Winning Home Brewer
Scott Pointon

All Proceeds Benefit the Lemont Community

50/50 Raffle & Auction

At: Gelsosomo's
206 Main Street
Lemont, IL 60439



Tickets: \$30 per person (includes beer samples & food)

Tickets At: Lemont Park District, Lemont Public Library, and at the door.

Contact Us: LHGRotaryCraftBeerTasting@gmail.com
or to reserve tickets call 815-370-4942

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