

306 Lemont St
Lemont, IL 60439
www.lemonthistory.org

Lemont Area Historical Society
(630) 257-2972
lemonthistorical@gmail.com

MAR-APR 2020

CORNERSTONE

Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter



MARCH EVENTS

- 3/04 - 6:30 pm**
Board Meeting
- 3/24 - 7:00 pm**
General Membership Meeting
- 3/29 - 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**
Our Town, Lemont
Lemont history presented at the Lemont Public Library

APRIL EVENTS

- 4/1 - 6:30 pm**
Board Meeting
- 4/14 - 6:30 pm, doors open**
Lincoln as a Storyteller
- 4/26 - 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**
Photo Identification & Free Research Day



**Thank you
Athens Marble Club
for your support!**

VILLAGE OF LEMONT
LEMONT TOWNSHIP
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I must tell you that the *Drinkin' with Lincoln Pub Crawl* on February 7th went very well. We had 135 people register. I think for some it is an escape from winter and getting together with friends or maybe meeting and getting acquainted with new people. We are very fortunate to have Sue Roy again orchestrate the event, and our Lincoln portrayer is excellent. Everyone enjoys themselves as he does stay in character. I must say at the *Canal Street Pub* there was this very ominous sign that read on the front door *Ford Theater Performance at 8pm*. We begged the President not to enter but he pushed aside our concerns and went in anyway. In this case we fortunately also had him exit and finish at the *Main Inn* for cake and cupcakes and got to, with a great deal of gusto, belt out "Happy Birthday" to him. The other establishments that were included were *The Cornerstone Pub*, *Tom's Place* where food was served, *McClafferty's Pub*, *The Vault*, and *Nick's Tavern*. None of this would be possible without the cooperation of these businesses and we do sincerely thank them. Note there will be another Lincoln Presentation at the museum on April 14th – see publicity for it – covering another topic that took place during his Presidency.



DWL 2020

I would like to personally thank Bruce Taylor for introducing us to a Lutheran organization that helps not-for-profits called Triventi. As a member of this group, you can direct \$250 twice a year to a project by the group they name. Bruce choose us, and we are very grateful.

We will repeat the presentation of "OUR TOWN – LEMONT" on March 29, 2020 from 2-4pm. at the Lemont Public Library. Registration with the Lemont Public Library is required. [Click here to register for Our Town – Lemont](#). Last time we offered this program it was well received, and we are grateful to the Lemont Public Library for allowing us to again offer this program to the general public. We have a fascinating history that touches on what we now take for granted. Join us as we explore the early years of the town we are fortunate enough to call "HOME".

I would like to give a "Get Well" to our Editor, Charmaine Drafke, who in the process of getting her new home just the way she likes it threw out her back moving a heavy piece of furniture. She puts all the pieces together to present an informative and enjoyable newsletter.

"HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!!!"



Sincerely,
Susan Donahue

Help Protect Lemont's Unique History*by Terry Blanz*

March is our membership drive month, when we send out emails and letters asking for our members to renew their membership and pay their dues. It is important to always stress that LAHS is not funded by any tax dollars, not state, county, township, park district, nor village. We are a non-for-profit 501c3 organization. We exist on four main areas: fund raising, donations, membership dues, and building rentals (weddings).

We use this money to pay our one part-time employee, our utility bills, and to put on various historical programs, like our downtown village tour, quarry tour, Then and Now exhibit, recent presentation Our Lost Heritage-Native Americans, and our upcoming Lemont History Program at the library on March 29th. We are your organization, and we also try to provide some fun events like Drinkin' with Lincoln, and the Haunted Lemont Bus Tour.

Last year we finally got our 200 amp electrical service and a new rug and someday, air conditioning. As treasurer, I would welcome any questions you may have on donating to us, especially if you are a senior taking your RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or 401K, and would like to learn how a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to LAHS works.

[Click here to join LAHS or renew your membership.](#)



We are celebrating our 50th anniversary this year with 50 events throughout the village to commemorate the fascinating history of Lemont and its people. Be sure to visit the Old Stone Church and follow our Facebook page for event information.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Family History Favorites

By Barb Bannon



This newsletter brings you a new feature for Genealogy. We occasionally come across genealogy websites that are very helpful with our research and would like to share the wealth. If you would like to let other researchers know what your favorite is and why, please feel free to send them along. Email to lahs.genealogy@gmail.com.

Happy Researching, Barb

Where to Find Polish Ancestors

from Howard Mitchell

POZNAN PROJECT - Marriage indexing for the 19th century within the former Prussian province of Posen, now Poznań, Poland, and neighboring districts: <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/page.php?page=about&lang=en>

Search the database at <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/index.php?lang=en>

It presently contains 1,806,794 marriages to search!

Most of the old line St Cyril & Methodius Polish families seem to have come from the greater Poznan area of Poland in the 1880-early 1890's time frame. For that time period, U.S. Immigration records, if any, at Castle gardens and later Ellis Island are limited and typically provide no information from where within Poland they might have come, so this site is invaluable in providing clues. Entering even just the surname and searching marriage records may turn up the Catholic church marriage record for them and/or their ancestors and relatives.

The largest city is also called Poznan. The Germans called it Posen. All of the Lemont Poles that I have researched have been from out in the countryside particularly in Bydgoszcz (Bromberg) area were laborers on farms. Although there was one daring relation who drown apparently as a fisherman.

The site is free but donations towards the cost of keeping their server running are appreciated. Lists of the (Church of) Latter Day Saints (LDS) (familysearch.org) microfilms and sometimes the State Archive are generally provided which will often provided additional information such as who the witnesses at the wedding were. Once you have the name and date of the parish wedding, the parish records may be search through the family history center microfilm much of which is now online. Orland Park center at:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Orland_Park_Illinois_Family_History_Center is the closest location to Lemont.

Links to some surrounding areas of Poznan are also on the Poznan Project home page.

GENEALOGY CORNER (continued)

Who? What? When? Where?

By Barb Bannon

These are questions that haunt everyone doing family history research, especially those of us that have unidentified photos and the Historical Society is no different. Our photo archive is a wonderful collection that documents the lives of people who either arrived here establishing the town or arrived later shaping it into today's Lemont.

The photo archive is always expanding, as is Lemont. And we are always looking for more information to add to the photos of people and places that are in the Historical Society's collection.

There are a few hints in this photo to help identify it. We know it's Lemont and a quick google search tells you (if you didn't know already) that K of C is Knights of Columbus and it's a team from 1927-28. A good guess would be basketball. Do you recognize anyone? Or know someone that might?



Photos like this always bring up interesting discussions and test our memories; everyone seems to have a different recollection of the past. If you show the same photo to three people they will probably come up with three different responses to what it was, where it was or when it was. Their answers can sometimes be attributed to a difference in age. even if it's only a few years. Much can change in those years, and each individual prospective helps fill memory gaps; and when assembled they may reveal the entire history of a photo.

Stop in Sunday April 26th 1-3pm at the Old Stone Church, we will have many of our archival photos on display, tell us what you know about them, that we don't. Our researchers will also be on hand to provide help with any genealogy questions you may have. All free of charge.

*"Family faces are magic mirrors.
Looking at people who belong to us, we
see the past, present and future."
— Gail Lumet Buckley*

If you have a photo, to donate or in need more information, bring it with maybe we can help. Family history research, whether found in photographs or documents, uncovers the stories of the people and town in which they lived for future generations. Anything we can add to these photos of relatives or friends or Lemont, will help us prevent those stories from fading into the past!

GENEALOGY CORNER (continued)



Connecting Branches

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

Claudia Dery researching Anton & Veronica (Kayut) Lux family
Diane Ritchie researching Joseph & Helena (Dockendorf) Warger family
Elaine Crouch researching William & Bridget Lynn & Michael Costello 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

Mailbox

If you have a general genealogy question please send it via regular mail or email to lahs.genealogy@gmail.com with "Genealogy Corner Mailbox" in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter. We just recently received the following question.

Question:

Hoping for some guidance. My father was born in Lemont in 1920. We have a birth record indicating so. According to information I've gathered along the way, his father was also from Lemont. Birth records searches in Cook, Du Page and Will Counties have produced nothing. There appears to be no record of my Grandfather until his marriage in Milwaukee in 1910. After that, there are only Census records which all show him born in Illinois. Ancestry.com has nothing more. Do you have any suggestions as to where I might look? I would appreciate any ideas you might provide.

Answer:

In regards to Birth Records in Illinois, they didn't really enforce the filing of these records until about 1910. I'm assuming your grandfather would have been born around 1870's - 1880? Have you found him in Lemont's 1880 or 1900 census? Do you have a copy of their marriage license? There may be hints on that. Otherwise, if you know a church affiliation here, check with them to see if they have a record, many times church records such as Baptismal are used as a substitute.

If you haven't already, try searching on Family Search at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>. They may have info that Ancestry doesn't.

Coming Events In The Area

Saturday July 11, 2020
McHenry County Genealogical Society's Summer Conference
Four lectures each one hour & Help Desk Sessions available
McHenry County College
8900 Route 14
Crystal Lake, IL
More Information: www.mcigs.org
815-687-0436

MORE FROM OUR WRITERS

Our Nation's Anthem

By Pat Dalman Knight

We all learned our National Anthem's history and sing the lyrics without too much thought. I get emotional whenever I hear the music. I don't know why, but I did an Internet search. I chose a YouTube video titled "Star Spangled Banner as You've Never Heard It." Oh my, there is much more to the history of Francis Scott Key's words. And there is so much more to the history of our flag. I recommend that you watch this special video. You can search the Internet using the video's title or use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaxGNQE5ZLA>

For more on the history and the Star-Spangled Banner preservation project started in 1996 visit the Smithsonian website:

The Story Behind the Star Spangled Banner

How the flag that flew proudly over Fort McHenry inspired an anthem and made its way to the Smithsonian

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-story-behind-the-star-spangled-banner-149220970/>



Smithsonian photographers created this composite image of the Star-Spangled Banner in 2004 from 73 separate photographs. The flag's large size (30-by-34 feet) prevented photographers from capturing it in one image while conservators worked on it in the specially-built conservation lab. *Courtesy of the National Museum of American History*



STEPPING BACK IN TIME *by Susan Donahue*

Well welcome to the journey that now takes us to April 6, 1971 and a Board Meeting of the Lemont Area Historical Society. We learn we were interested in Genealogy from the beginning of our Society. Let's travel back and see what these enthusiastic pioneers were discussing on **April 6, 1971**:



**Lemont Garden Club
Volunteer Luncheon**

- President Tom Ludwig called the meeting to order at 7:45pm. 28 members and guests were present.
- President Ludwig announced at the next meeting a motion will be presented to amend the By-Laws to include, as one of the standing committees, a genealogical research com. Additional committees were announced as follows:
 - Curator: Gary White (Still a member in 2020)
 - Genealogy: Carol Zimmer (Chair); Walter Tedens, Harry Swanson, Mrs. Polson
 - Program: Jo Beckman, Elmer Garling
 - Museum: Sophie Johnson
 - Sites: Tony Slattery
 - Research: Bill Leonard, Mrs. Beckman, Mrs. Rimbo, Mike Galati
- President Ludwig announced that a series of newsletters concerning the quarry strike have been well received.
- Additional items for the museum have been received: Mrs. Rimbo (bank notes); and, Sophie Johnson (1894 Observer Newspaper). It was announced that an electric clipper has been offered from Art Steinke's barber shop. Members were asked to obtain a copy of the 1959 St. Cyril Diamond Jubilee Book.
- Rev, Schaller announced plans for his trip to Luther land in August.
- Treasurer reported a balance on hand for March of \$1044.45; the April balance is \$1,072.56
- President announced that Attorney Moss now has the proper forms on hand for the Internal Revenue Service.
- Mrs. Hamelen introduced Mr. Ira Bishop, of the S. Cook County Genealogical & Historical Society, who presented a most interesting talk concerning his group and his work.
- President announced the Board of Directors will meet at his home on April 20, and that old Laurel & Hardy films will be shown at the May Meeting.

May 4, 1971

- Regular meeting of the Lemont Area Historical Society was called to order by Vice – President Donald Urick. About 50 people were present. A petition was read by Mrs. Mathy from the Sag Area concerning the Canal Preservation, and left the petition available for signature by anyone wishing to sign.
- Mr. Donald Mtes presented several very funny Laurel & Hardy movies.

(to be continued).

SOCIETY NEWS *by Susan Donahue*

We are fortunate enough to have selfless volunteers. Two years ago a young boy came in with his mom and asked to volunteer. His interest really lay in his being a docent for us, but he was willing to help in whatever way he could. I discussed this with the Board and they felt it was only right to give him a chance. He came almost every day during the summer. His name is Mark Weinberg, who also introduced us with his friend Landon, to "Open Mic". It has been an interesting experience. He was one of the presenters for the presentation we did at the Lemont Public Library in September. Unfortunately for us his parents are relocating to FL. in a few weeks, so I wanted to let you know that this is happening and we will miss the co-composer of the musical hit, "The Old Stone Church Blues".

Best Wishes Always to You & Your family, Mark!!!! Glad I got a chance to know you & your family!!!



Calling All Members!

You can renew your membership or buy a new membership online!

Join By Mail

- Complete the membership application below
- Make out a check for the appropriate dues
- Mail both to the Historical Society's address on the form

Join Online!

www.lemonthistory.org/membership.html

*You will receive your membership card
in a few weeks*

Join In Person

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday and Friday
10 AM to 2 PM
Saturday
10 AM to 1 PM
Sunday
1 to 4 PM

You will receive your membership card in a few weeks

Membership Benefits

- Voting privileges at General Membership Meeting
- Cornerstone Newsletter
- Free admission to regular museum exhibit area
- Free use of Society Library – 10% discount on Genealogy Research
- One Guest pass for free admission to regular museum exhibit area
- Discount on Archival Photos and other image media
- 10% Discount on items in Gift Shop, including selected books

Additional Benefits for Corporate Members

- One extra Guest pass for free admission to regular museum exhibit area (Total 2 passes)
- Your business card included in one issue of the Cornerstone Newsletter
- Membership Certificate suitable for framing

Additional Benefit for Life Members

- Name will be engraved on nameplate and displayed on plaque in museum.

Opportunities For LAHS Members: Our historical society has many kinds of activities that members can get involved in if they wish. New members who get involved will enable us to do more and do it more efficiently. Here are some possible opportunities:

Archiving Photos And Newspaper Articles | Tour Guides – At The Museum, Around Lemont, And New Trails
New Exhibits | New Archival Collections To Copy And Sell | Fund Raising Events | Newsletter Articles
Museum Care And Improvements | Tour Advertising | Special Programs And Reenactments
New Pages For The Website | Maintaining The Gardens



JOIN TODAY

March is Membership Month for
the Lemont Area Historical Society

Do you want to become a member?
Are you already a member and need to renew?
Now is the time to do it!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual & Family Member

1. Voting privileges at General Membership Meeting
2. Free admission to regular museum exhibit area
3. Free use of Society Library
4. One Guest pass for free admission to regular museum exhibit area
5. Discount on archival photos and other image media
6. 10% discount on items in gift shop including selected books
7. Receive our *Cornerstone* quarterly newsletter

Student Member \$10
Senior Citizen \$15
Individual \$20
Family \$30

Corporate (*additional benefits*)

1. One extra guest pass for free admission to regular museum exhibit area (total 2 passes)
2. Your business Card included in one issue of the *Cornerstone* newsletter
3. Membership Certificate suitable for framing

Corporate Member \$50

Lifetime (*additional benefits*)

1. Membership will last for life
2. Your name will be engraved on nameplate and displayed on plaque in museum

Lifetime Member \$200

Discover the rewards of joining our ever growing society of dedicated members! Learn more about Lemont's rich past while helping to preserve the history and museum artifacts for generations to come!

Join online at www.lemonthistory.org/membership.html
Join in person at the Old Stone Church, 306 Lemont Street

(630) 257-2972

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

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: _____