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MAY-JUN 2020

# CORNERSTONE

*Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter*



## MAY EVENTS

Check our [WEBSITE](#) for upcoming events!

## JUNE EVENTS



Thank you  
Athens Marble Club  
for your support!

VILLAGE OF LEMONT  
LEMONT TOWNSHIP  
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Members,

All of us on the LAHS Board wish you the very best in this very difficult time that we are facing in our world. I know for many of us we can't fully wrap our heads around what is happening. Our lives have changed so dramatically. Wearing masks was once what bad guys did, except if you go back far enough and remember the Lone Ranger.

We must remember that we are all in this together and take solace in the fact that we have been through troubling times in the past and we have somehow managed to survive a little wiser and stronger too.

Our beloved museum is closed to the general public, except for making sure that our bills are paid on time. I know Terry Blanz, our Treasurer, Gail August as an Advisor, and myself have spent many hours making sure the Society runs smoothly. I will tell you that fortunately we did apply and receive a government SBAPP Loan. This will help us pay our bills. We are also grateful to those who have chosen to donate to us, or renew or become new members. I thank them and our Board of Directors for continuing to make sure that we focus on what is best for the LAHS.

I have been thrust into the new tech by attending Zoom Meetings, as has our Board. We do have some new and exciting ventures that we are exploring. One of them is "Chicken S Bingo." We are fortunate to have Rick Homerding, owner of Puckerville Farms, who will lend his chickens to make this rather unique, fundraiser come to be. He has already created the Bingo Boards to be used. PayPal will be the way to make your bids. It will be held on the grounds of the museum. We have an impartial judge in Jason Berry, our Village Economic & Development Director, as MC. It will be held in June, date to be announced. Please keep your eyes on the news and don't miss being part of the fun, choosing your numbers and cheering on a chicken that will hopefully lay not an egg, but win you some money.

We as a Board would like to thank Developer Rob Abbinante, Sal Alfano, Dominic and Architect Simon Batistich of St. James Academy Apartments for including us when upgrading their own property. They kindly blacktopped our parking lot and improved our landscaping that borders their property. The Lemont Garden Club has also donated endless time, plants, talent and skill to improve our garden. It really speaks volumes of why we are proud to call Lemont home – Community spirit is alive and well in Lemont.



I would also encourage you to support your local businesses if you can. I must say that I do appreciate the Lemont Village's Zoom Meetings that connect our local businesses once a week with each other so that we can get the facts on what we need to know and pass along to others. Knowledge is power and I have found the data relevant and also sharing data and knowing that others are also trying to figure out the next step somehow makes it less scary and daunting in this new world we have been forced to deal with in real time.

Thank you,  
Susan Donahue

**Support the Lemont Area Historical Society through Amazon Smile***by Terry Blanz*

Do you have a favorite charity? We hope it might be the Lemont Area Historical Society. If you purchase items online, did you know you can donate to that charity and it will cost you nothing?

[AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support, but we hope you choose Lemont Area Historical Society.

On your first visit to [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), you need to select a charitable organization, such as Lemont Area Historical Society, to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. After this first selection, Amazon Smile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. Be sure to start each shopping trip at AmazonSmile!

**Family History Favorites***by Gail Ahrens*

For military information I like [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com). It's a subscription site (7day free trial available). If you're looking for your military ancestors, I've found a lot of interesting information.

I have many English & Irish ancestors and have found a wealth of information on them at [FindMyPast.com](https://www.findmypast.com) which is also a subscription site (14day free trial available). You are able to buy a month subscription or one for a year. It also has US information. There are so many things that I've found I can't name them all. For instance, I have English mariners and I've been able to find the ships they served on, even information about one ancestor who was lost at sea.

Another site that can be really helpful to everyone is [cyndislist.com](https://www.cyndislist.com). There is a lot there that can point you to possible sites that can help.

**DISCOVER YOUR**  
*Family History*  
**ONLINE**

# GENEALOGY CORNER

## Photo's Story Revealed By Barb Bannon

Those of us without school age children that need help with remote learning, may have extra time on our hands during this quarantine. If you do, this would be a good time to focus on starting research for a family tree or concentrating on specific areas of the one you already have. You can scrutinize a previously found document for missed details, start a family history scrapbook, review your tree for errors, research an ancestors occupation, watch a genealogy webinar or call a relative to record a favorite story from their life.

My interest has always been in the photos that I have received from others or those taken by the family over the years. Organizing and scanning photos takes time and that being a surplus right now, it's the perfect opportunity to concentrate on that aspect of family history.

To prepare for future scanning, write what you already know on the photo back; add names, approximate dates and locations. Years from now when someone finds that stack of old photos,



**LTHS Majorettes**

they won't wonder if those three kids playing in the wading pool are relatives or neighbors.



**Berlin's Candy Corner**

Some of the photos I have been sorting have groups of people in them. The LTHS Majorettes in the photo are back to front, left to right, Theresa Shafranski, Clara Mae Friedley, Corrine Otto, Fern Ludwig and Evelyn Baranowski. In two of the photos I thought the background was an interesting subject in the photo. I am seeing views of locations that I either don't remember or remember at a different point in time. There may not be family members in the photo but none the less they add memories to the family history.

I recognized Matt's Inn on the Northeast corner of State & Main Streets and also the building that was Berlin's Candy Corner on the Southeast corner adjacent to the Arthur Theater. Someone may remember having attended the parade that day, had been in the parade or have a memory of a person in the photo.

## GENEALOGY CORNER (continued)

Looking at the Inn I remember receptions, showers and other special occasion dinners but my memory of the Candy Corner is as a building that was removed to build the new bridge.

The photos were taken by my mother on V.J. Day (Victory over Japan Day). The memories that are added to our family history come from the story behind the photographs. This was a V.J. Day celebration in small town Lemont that had many of its young men come home from WWII military service, some of its young men came home scarred from that war and a few of its young men

did not come home at all. What also isn't told by viewing the photo is that my mother was both celebrating the homecoming of one brother while also mourning the loss of another.

If you have been wondering about the backstory of a few photographs, either scan or use a cellphone camera to copy and send them to a few relatives or friends and simply ask what they remember. Even if you get just a bit of a story from one person it could be the puzzle piece that completes a partial story you received from another. You may be surprised, occasionally you can sit back and watch the story write itself.



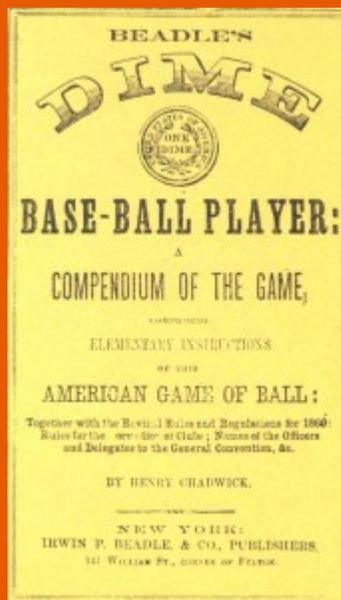
Matt's Inn



***Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell.***

~ Louisa May Alcott

# MORE FROM OUR WRITERS *submitted by Sue Roy*



Beadle's Dime Base-Ball Player is first published following the March 14, 1860 convention, held in New York. The book provides a very brief history of base ball, the rules for the 1860 season, and explains particulars of each playing position and how to lay out a field. It is the first of its kind and was published each year until 1881.

With the current pandemic, there is a good chance our Lemont Quarrymen will not be playing any games until mid to late summer if at all. In light of this, I thought it might be nice to include some base ball history in our newsletter.

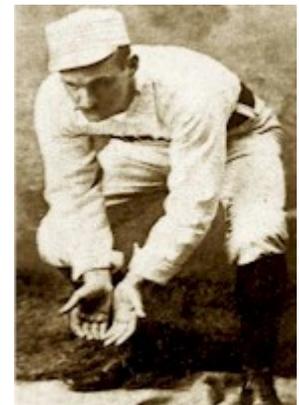
## Nineteenth century baseball was considerably different than today's game.

From 1845 through 1864, fair or foul batted balls caught on the fly or one bounce, retired the batter. However, the more skilled players always attempted to catch batted balls on the fly.

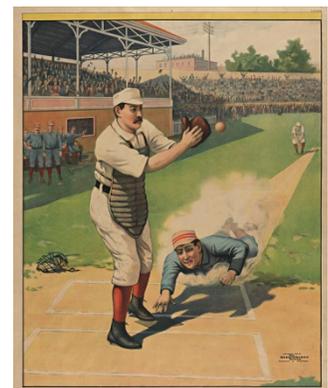
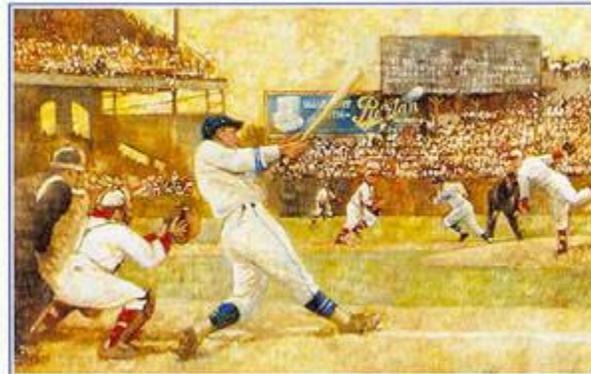
Until the start of the 1877 season, batted balls were considered fair or foul based on where the ball first struck the playing field or the player. Although overhand pitching was legal in the National League in 1884 and in the American Association on June 7, 1885, the game took on a more modern appearance beginning with the 1887 season. Starting that season, pitchers were required to start from a fixed position and pause between pitches.

Most players were bare handed until the mid-1880's; however, a few catchers began wearing a glove or gloves in the mid 1870's. Cincinnati Reads second baseman Bid McPhee, the last of the bare-handed players, opened the 1896 season on April 16, wearing a glove.

Source: [www.vbba.org/history-of-base-ball](http://www.vbba.org/history-of-base-ball)



Bill McPhee  
(public domain)



## STEPPING BACK IN TIME *by Susan Donahue*

Well let us see what our Society was up to in June 22, 1971. The meeting was held at Bernice Johnson's home: It was suggested that a quantity of postage paid envelopes be purchased for use in sending out the periodic mailings. Due to the large expenditure of money needed for this, it was suggested that the matter be tabled for the present time.

At the same meeting they were concentrating on a large map that had been donated to the LAHS. President Tom Ludwig had written to the State Historical Society concerning the map and he had been advised not to use glass as a cover. There also had been a visit to the Chicago Historical Society and they had given him a contact number of someone who might be able to help with this project.

This exchange of letters is I believe in regards to the map that now graces our lower level:

Dear Mt. Tribolet, Graphic Conservation  
Department R. R. Donnelly & Sons Co.

The Lemont Area Historical Society is seeking to preserve and display a large old map of the Lemont area. The map is about 3ft. wide and 8 ft. long. It has 2 corners torn off and a rip near the center. The map appears to be on a linen type paper. Would you be so kind as to set a time and date when a representative of our Society could bring the map to you to see and discuss various methods to accomplish the preservation and displaying of this map and the cost of such.

Yours Truly, Thomas F. Ludwig  
Pres. Lemont Area Hist. Soc.

Dear Mr. Ludwig,

Concerning your inquiry regarding the framing of the map that you have I must first of all say that it is practically impossible to do an adequate job of preservation without spending a fairly large amount of money. I am glad that you did not go ahead and put the glass sheet over the map as this is probably one of the worst things you could have done. Glass itself is no preserver and, of course, does nothing but merely hold the map flat. I would suggest that you contact a local art store or framing shop in your area and have the map mounted on a regular art mat or mat backing of some kind making certain that it is not glued onto the map but mounted with some other type of process.

After this has been done a very simple frame around the map which would hold Kodak Polaroid acetate paper across the face of the map should be used. Using this Kodak acetate paper would alleviate having to use acetate paper filters out any harmful light rays. The map, of course, will not appear quite as neat and nice as it would if glass was inserted over the Polaroid paper but at least you would have it mounted on the wall and some type of preservation technique applied. If this process is too expensive for you I have no other suggestions as to what you can do. The above is the cheapest way that it can be handled and still have some safeguards for preserving the map. Let me know if you have any difficulty in acquiring the materials, and I will try to do what I can to help.

Sincerely Yours, Daniel Holt Director of Field Services

## SOCIETY NEWS *by Susan Donahue*

Our Society has come through many events not only involved in our own humble beginnings but in our town. I was reminded of that when our editor, Charmaine Drafke, asked all of us if we had any photos about events that the Society was involved in. I happened upon this photo shown of the high rise bridge dedication.

I was privileged to know them as determined and yes, feisty people with good hearts. Helen Bittles was Chair of Library and ran a tight ship. Her picture graces our library to this day. She was the record keeper of donations to our small, but impressive collection.

There is also Sonia Kallick, who welcomed me with open arms. It is no wonder that even after all these years her former students come into the museum to visit and relate stories about her. She was not stuffy nor a *keep to the rules* teacher - she made history interesting and relevant and impressed them.

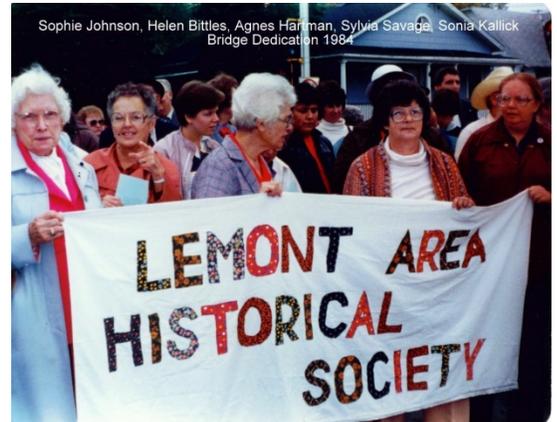
We have Sylvia Savage, short in size but not in attitude. God help anyone who thought she would sit idly by if there was a cause she believed in. It was full speed ahead. You might not agree with her, but you had to respect her. She took charge and, with her Bestie Sonia, their opponents knew it was going to be a fight to the finish if they felt strongly about an issue.

Sophie and Agnes Johnson were more quiet spoken but no less strong in their beliefs.

Bernice Johnson was part of our library too and spent hours donating her time and talents to keep our library running. Norma Johnson, as warm and welcoming as Bernice, was also part of that clique. Up until just the last few years she would come and help the library staff. We owe them a great deal – all of these pictured.

The flag, comprised of scraps of material and lovingly sewed together, was created by them all. It was used in this picture and still resides in the museum. Many of us have been privileged to carry it in parades over the years.

**“One important part of historical recording is to get people of another generation to understand the feelings, the passion that went into social transformation. That’s why oral history is so valuable.” ~ *Alix Kates Shulman***



Sophie Johnson, Helen Bittles, Agnes Harman, Sylvia Savage, Sonia Kallick  
Bridge Dedication 1984

## 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](http://www.lemonthistory.org/membership.html)

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

### Join In Person

HOURS OF OPERATION:

*Due to COVID restrictions,  
the museum is currently  
closed to the public.*

*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



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

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: \_\_\_\_\_