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Lemont Area Historical Society  
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SEP-OCT 2020

# CORNERSTONE

*Lemont Historical Society's Newsletter*



The museum is currently open by appointment only. Call (630) 257-2972.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

## OCTOBER EVENTS

Hocus Pocus is back this year. Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) for more details!

**A CALL OUT TO ALL OF YOU: THE LAHS IS IN FINACIAL NEED AS OUR FUNDRAISERS, WEDDINGS, AND TOURS HAVE BEEN ON HOLD AND IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DONATE FINANCIALLY TO OUR ORGANIZATION. WE WOULD SO APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU.**

*All Donations are Tax Deductible*



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,

First I know I speak for the Board that we wish to send our deepest sympathy to the Joseph Forzley family at this time of their loss. He contributed so much to not only his family and friends but to the town of Lemont by being Mayor. His sister, Gloria, has been very helpful over the years donating her time and baking skills for our annual Christmas Cookie Sales.

We also send our deepest condolences to the Stoops family at the loss of George, our former LHS Indian mascot, who always had a big smile on his face whenever he would meet you. Linda, his wife, has in the past been our Newsletter Editor, who took the time and attention to get each edition spell checked and created an enjoyable newsletter each time. We know he will be missed.

I wanted to let you know too that our Membership Committee has been double checking our lists as they want to make sure we don't lose any of you. If you have forgotten or just been too busy please check your membership card and renew. You will be notified by this Committee in the next few months to encourage you to renew. We do need all of you and if you know others interested in our rich Lemont history please spread the word that we are always happy to welcome new members, while treasuring those who continue to support us.

On another matter not only is our national election coming up, but we also have our own LAHS Election processing in play. The Election will be in Nov. The Nominating Committee consists of Sue Roy, Dianne Butkovich, and Traci Sarpalius. In September the Slate of Candidates will be announced. The above committee are calling members to see if any of you would like to be part of our Board. All Officers at this time are secure, but the General Board has some spots available. It is a great way to get involved with the Society and learn more about the nuts and bolts of our organization. You will meet some very dedicated people with good senses of humor – you just might be that missing link that will give that extra spark needed. A new adventure – an added spice to your life.

Another item I feel needs some push is with the virus we would really like any new ideas for fundraisers, as we try to cope with this situation, or the new normal, to come our way. The masks and social distancing has left us scrambling for creative ways to keep us moving forward and staying afloat. I know you all are up to this challenge.

We did participate in the shortened "Classic Car Show" and in fact were at the last show. The Heritage Corridor Business Alliance kindly thanked us at the end of the evening and also I do appreciate Glenn Pasiewicz message of encouragement to all there to check out our beloved museum.

I would close by saying, from all our Board, that we wish each and every one of you to be safe and healthy. We will only keep good thoughts for each and every one of you as we continue on this journey we call "Life."

Thank you,  
Susan Donahue

**The New \$300 Universal Deduction**  
*by Terry Blanz, LAHS Treasurer (not a tax consultant)*

In 2017 the Federal Government passed a tax overhaul. The threshold for the standard deduction was doubled; for individuals, it is now \$12,200. This meant that about 85% of Americans no longer itemized their deductions, which meant they could no longer deduct any contributions to a nonprofit or other charity.

In March of this year, Congress passed a new deduction measure. Taxpayers who don't separately itemize their deductions will now be allowed to claim charitable deductions up to \$300. At this time, it is not clear if couples who file jointly can claim \$600.

The Lemont Area Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. We want to make sure that all our members are aware that for 2020, you will now be able to take the standard deduction and in addition STILL donate up to \$300 to LAHS.

For additional information, click on this link: <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/How-the-New-300/248523>

Terry Blanz, LAHS Treasurer (not a tax consultant)

**CARES Act:  
Charitable Giving Incentives for 2020**

**INDIVIDUALS**

- Creates a temporary universal deduction for charitable contributions with a cap of \$300 for non-itemizers
- Lifts the existing deduction cap on charitable contributions from 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100% of AGI for itemizers

**CORPORATIONS**

- Increases the deduction for charitable contributions from 10% to 25%.
- Increases the deduction for charitable food donations from 15% to 25%

Information provided by the National Council of Nonprofits

# GENEALOGY CORNER

## Flabbergasted Ancestors By Barb Bannon

Family research reveals much about a day in the life of our ancestors. In recent years we have seen innovations at a pace that makes our heads spin. Our ancestors would have been lucky to have a new “modern convenience” once a decade. We now even see improvements to conveniences in our lives multiple times a year; just try to keep up with the latest available smart phone. Hearing about our routine days, my grandparents would think it was from a science fiction movie.



ice box

Their mornings may have begun with work in their fields trying to grow crops, feed livestock, milk cows and maintain the farm buildings and machinery. I can't imagine their reaction to an automatic milking machine (available since 1970) or a power tool, much less a cordless one, which we have enjoyed the use of since the 1960's.

Due to the widespread decrease in income during the depression, farm families survived by supplementing with “egg money”. Raising their chickens was an important chore, but feeding, collecting eggs and cleaning the chicken coop was an easy enough task children could do before and after school. Maintaining a large garden in the 1930's also helped keep the family fed, but vegetables and fruits had to be preserved to hold them for future use. Imagine spending hours over a hot stove in the summer without central air conditioning (1970). What an effort saver the electric pressure canners (1990) would have been then.

Refrigeration in the early years consisted of an ice box to hold items for a short time, usually the duration of the “ice man” delivery. There wasn't the pleasure of grabbing a refreshing drink treat or ice cream from the freezer to cool down during the summer.

The 1930s & '40s brought expanded use of electric refrigerators and freezers, although the expense was beyond many families means.

My grandmothers would often hand sew and mend clothing, and they cleaned them using a wringer washing machine, although we would call what they did “hand washing”. They needed to connect a hose to the faucet, fill the tub, let it agitate until they thought the clothes were clean, drain, wring the clothes through the rollers and repeat the entire process to rinse. They then hoped the weather cooperated to hang them on the line to dry. What would they do with all the time saved using the automatic machines (1955) of today? Probably canned more fruits and vegetables!

I would love to have my grandparents walk into a 2020 home and see their reaction to a kitchen equipped with a microwave (1967), food processor (1960) and all of the latest WiFi connected appliances. They would never believe a call on our wireless phone (1973) could lock the doors, adjust the room temperature and start dinner. What would they do if I asked Alexa (2010) to turn the lights up and start the Roomba (2002)?

## GENEALOGY CORNER (continued)

I can remember years ago giving my grandmother one of the recordable birthday cards, she didn't believe the recording was coming from the card and kept insisting it was coming from somewhere else. Or when she was watching a Cub game and was trying very hard to understand how they were playing at Wrigley Field but at the same time on the TV screen. If that boggled her mind I can't imagine what she would think about video recorders (1978), personal computers (1980) or the World Wide Web (1989); not to mention DNA testing, MRI, the Laser, CT Scan, GPS, Facebook/Twitter, 3D printing and the International Space Station.

Many of us remember shopping in town when all you had to do was tell the clerk "put it on account" and they didn't even have to ask your name. The modern credit card (1950) would have been hard for our ancestors to understand and imagine the strange look on their face seeing us digitally pay (2014) with a smartphone or watch. I can hear it now, "Where does the money come out?".



GE Wringer-Washer Print Ad

Though things change, many stay the same, or at least come back around. While Lemont's past had the Jewel Tea Co, Home Juice Co, local bakery and milk deliveries, we now find that need filled by Instacart, Shipt, Fresh Direct and others. Sears Roebuck & Co. then delivered almost anything you wanted to your home, sometimes even the house, and we now can use Google Express, Postmates or Amazon Prime (2005) to receive some things within the hour. Soon it will be common for delivery drones (2014) to drop items off at our doorstep.

What will our descendants have that would boggle our minds? I have a feeling that a SpaceX rocket may have something to do with it.

*From our Ancestors vantage point,  
we may have decreased our labor but increased our anxiety.*



### Connecting Branches

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

**Nick Jakusz** researching **Jakusz, Grabos, Rohder, Zielke, Dziordzia, Belyak, Strochanowski & Guse**

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](mailto:lemonthistorical@gmail.com)

# STEPPING BACK IN TIME *by Susan Donahue*

Our fragile beginnings as an organization were held together by a group of people who believed the Lemont Area Historical Society was worth taking the time, energy and sacrifice to start and maintain.

**Minutes of July 6, 1971 taken by Helen Bittles, Secretary:**

Mr. Ludwig reported that the President, Chester Davey and Tony Slattery had met with the Methodist Church Board. At that meeting they asked that building be donated to the Lemont Area Historical Society. It was decided that the matter would be taken under advisement and that the Church Conference must be consulted. The Historical Society will prepare a draft of a proposed agreement, with the assistance of Mr. Barry Moss, a lawyer. This draft will be submitted to the Church trustees.

Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$1243.68.

Due to the poor attendance at the weekend openings of the museum, Harry Swanson moved that the museum be opened only on Sundays during July and August. Motion unanimously passed. The sign on the outside of the building and elsewhere in Lemont are to be changed to reflect this alteration in date.

It was proposed that \$50 be spent in obtaining postage paid envelopes which are used for mailings. Motion for the above was made by Mr. Swanson and carried.

The large map which we are interested in preserving is to be taken to the R.R. Donnelly Company on July 20 by Mr. Urick. It was moved by Harry Swanson, seconded by Elaine Mathy that this work be done, up to \$150. Motion carried. (As a sidenote: This map now hangs proudly in our lower level of the museum giving visitors an opportunity to see Lemont's past of areas now developed that were once large blocks of farmland and the small area designated with streets that comprised our downtown.)

It was recommended that Mr. Emil Wend be contacted and interviewed for historical data without further and undue delay. It was agreed that this be done promptly.

Mr. Mathy discussed preliminary plans for the Chuck Wagon Dinner to be held during Keepataw Days. Mrs. Mathy will take care of the publicity for this and John Bittles will be asked to make two signs to be used on the float in the parade. It was decided that the museum will be open to visitors for the Labor Day holidays on Saturday evening, Sunday and Monday.

Secretary was asked to write a thank you letter to the Camera Shop in Joliet for the donation of the camera which was given to Mrs. Johnson for the museum.

Mrs. Beckman announced a program for the August meeting, as well as one in September.



**RETRO**  
**MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**SOCIETY NEWS** *by Susan Donahue*

We want to first extend a sincere “Get Well” to member Priscilla Ludwig as she recovers at home from a kidney infection. Her husband was an important part of our Societies history and she was helpful along side him.

Our beloved museum garden is being taken care of by the Lemont Garden Club. These ladies are a very dedicated group who continue to pull weeds and show TLC to all the plants not only in our own garden but throughout Lemont. When you go downtown and see the beautiful creations in the large pots know that they were involved in designing and keeping the plants alive and well. I have learned from one of them that one of the plants smells like ivory soap and the beautiful geranium has a soft fragrant smell. New plants have been added. We owe them a great big, “THANK YOU”. If you know any of them please extend good wishes to them as they continue to help us.



**Black Eyed Susans in Front of the Old Stone Church**

We did have a few visitors practicing social distancing by appointment. I think the ghosts were pleased to see some friendly new faces and blood. They are a little disturbed at what their fall antics will offer as plans for our usual fun events are being accessed. Our human love of everything haunting is going to be tested. The repeat of our “Haunted Bus Tour” is being reviewed. Scary movies – hmm, do you ever get the feeling that our organization really enjoys the supernatural – like feeding candy to a baby? We had some new stories too that did actually occur. In one case it frightened one of our guests but then I don’t want to give it away. I hear a ghost whispering –“A White Hearse and Us!?”

We look at our world differently now. Some of us still look back on “Keepataw Days” with nostalgic reminders of a old fashioned jail, carnival rides, and that most important ending to the weekend the, “Keepataw Parade”. The sound of the cannon that alerted everyone that the parade was starting, the sirens of the fire trucks not only from Lemont, but from neighboring towns. At the end came the horses decorated by their owners and ridden proudly. Our society was represented by the antique cars of Howard Johnson and Gary White. We sold homemade popcorn in bags at the museum and Bill Uznanski would mingle through the crowd embarrassing anyone who was not quick enough to purchase one. I think it was one of his favorite things to do representing us.

Going back to our museum grounds I would be remiss if I did not mention John Quinn and his son, Ellis, who cut our grass and keep it looking in tip top shape. Appearances even in today’s world are important, not to mention our neighbors who might not be pleased to see the grass high and the weeds flourishing.

We were going to show the movie, “Children On Their Birthdays” in Sept – not sure we can do that now. I know the stars like Barb Buschman and myself have some very fond memories of that first movie shot at the museum. We learned quickly that actual time and schedules were not part of the movie scene and the late P.J. Fitzgerald, who thought coming in at 5am was really giving them a lot of lead time, only to find out that they were all there waiting for the museum doors to open and wondering, “Why are you late?”

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_