

# Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society

2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Volume 2, No.1

JANUARY 2002



"Preserving the  
Past  
is our Present  
to the Future"

## Executive Board

### OFFICERS

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Dr. Reno G. Caneva

#### Vice President

Gordon McCluskey

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Charlene Giardina

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Jacqueline Munch

#### Historian

Georgene Bankroff

### DIRECTORS

Richard Cronholm

Erwin Klopstein

William Molony

James Raue

### Newsletter &

### Correspondence

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## Message from the President

2002 will be our first full calendar year of service as the genealogical and historical voice of the Lockport area. Thanks to the Lockport Township Park District, we will also begin the year by locating our society in . . .

**"The House in the Park."**

While our monthly meetings will still be held at the Gladys Fox Museum, our offices, archival collections, and exhibits will be established at the house. The hours we open to the public will depend upon volunteers. Let us know if you are interested in helping to orient visitors, answer the phone, copy documents, do research, write for the newsletter, etc.

Beginning with this year, we count ourselves among the many active heritage organizations in our region. Each presents its story within the context of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, but no town is more significant to the growth and development of the entire 100-mile canal corridor than is Lockport. Our Anniversary Book will reflect this.

**Our city distinguishes itself**, not only as the canal headquarters of the past, but as a key destination for researchers and out-of-town visitors today. Our center, located in a beautiful park setting, offers an exciting and valuable addition to the other cultural resources in Lockport.

*Happy New Year !*

—Dr. Reno G. Caneva

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book, 1830-2005**



## Membership

**Dues and Special Events Tickets:** Bonnie Packley, 1016 Maitland Drive, Lockport, IL 60441  
**All other correspondence:** LAGHS / "The House in the Park," 1911 S. Lawrence Av.  
Lockport, IL 60441



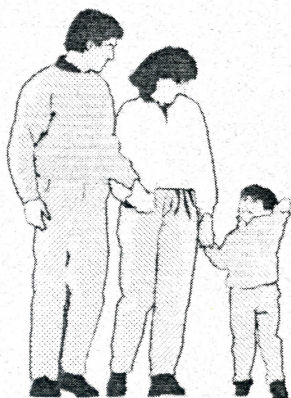
# In Search of . . . people, places, and events!

What historical knowledge or fond memories do you have of the people, places, and events described in this column?

## Sterling Park

Reno Caneva recently spoke with Thomas Clark, age 93, who grew up in Sterling Park (south of Fairmont and north of Joliet Township). Clark recalls family names such as Salbago, Kesich, Grubisch, Bill, and Artisuk. He remembers grocery stores operated by the Panich, Zanzola and Grohar families.

On a 1873 map, there is an area called "Fair Grounds" and streets called Harvard and Yale. The Russian or Serbian Orthodox cemetery is located in the area.



Please share your memories, memorabilia, and documents on Lockport and its people at our monthly meetings, or . . .

Send your correspondence to "The House in the Park" or the e-mail address listed on the cover of this Newsletter.

## Welcome !

### New LAGHS Society Members

Mrs. Beverly Beeson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Larson



### New Executive Board Member

Erwin Klopstein has been chosen to fill the vacancy of Clifford Stewart, who helped us begin organizing our society.

## Program Committee Report

—Gordon McCluskey, Vice President and Program Chair

The committee is planning an exciting line-up of special programs for the year.

For instance, at the March meeting, we will observe our Irish heritage. Author of a book on the history of St. Dennis Church, our

own society historian, Georgene Bankroff, will take us on a tour of St. Dennis.

I'll tell you more about our programs in the next issue.

Let us know about your program ideas, too.



# Treasures of Christmas Past

December 15, 2001

Members and their guests celebrated the holiday season on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Gladys Fox Museum. After a brief meeting, we filled our plates with treats from the pot-luck buffet. A delicious sausage melange steamed warm and savory among home-baked sweets and fresh fruit. Piano accompanist, Phyllis Caneva, and soloist, Anna Mae Lukancic, entertained us with a moving selection of Christmas songs and sing-a-longs.

Share & Tell elicited a treasure of memorabilia and memories of Christmas past. A wonderful larger-than-life-size Santa with the Texaco logo was placed next to the Christmas Tree. Members showed favorite toys and photographs and recollected how they acquired them; we'll print their stories in an upcoming publication.



Anna Mae and Phyllis lead us in Song and Fellowship

## A Christmas Message For All Times

### Ebenezer Scrooge to the Spirit of Christmas Past:

Good Spirit—Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future.

The Sprits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.

— Quotation from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1848)



## Christmas Share & Tell

Marge Haack looks at a pretty wreath in the window light, while Erwin Klopstein holds the microphone for Chuck Hull.

Chuck counts this Share & Tell Christmas toy among hundreds of antique items in the basement of his historic mansion, once occupied by the Chief Engineer of the I & M Canal, William Gooding.



CommunityEvents

LOCKPORT'S CULTURAL CAMPUS

Gaylord Building

Opening February 6

*Disarming the Prairie:  
Selected Photos of Medwin  
National Tallgrass Prairie  
by Terry Evans*

(815) 838.4830

Will County Historical Society

Open Daily

1:30p - 4:00p

(815) 838.5080

CommunityEvents

Illinois State Museum

Lockport Gallery  
Norton Building

Opening January 12

*Carving a Culture: Works from  
the African Collection of the  
Illinois State Museum*

(815) 838.7400

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Public Landing Restaurant: **New Hours!**

Mon.-Thu. 11:30a-9:30p; Fri./Sat. 11:30a-10:30p;  
Sunday Brunch, 10a-2p and dinner 4p-8p

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Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society  
1911 S. Lawrence Avenue  
Lockport, IL 60441





Lockport Area  
Genealogical & Historical Society

**Meeting: 8:30 a.m.**

Bring a friend

Asiago-Italian Heritage  
Share & Tell 9:00 a.m.

Coffee & . . .



**February 23, 2002**

**Gladys Fox Museum**

RSVP to Bonnie at 838.3988

Need a ride? Call Bonnie