

# LOCKPORT AREA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President- Dr. Reno G. Caneva,  
Vice President-Gordon McCluskey,  
Secretary- Charlene Giardina, Treasurer- Bonita  
Packley, Librarian- Ruth Waldvogel, Genealogist-  
Jacqueline Munch, Historian- Georgene Bankroff,  
Directors: Paul Burandt, Richard Cronholm,  
Erwin Klopstein, Steve Potter

*Preserving the Past is our Present to the Future*

We bring the people of the Lockport area together  
to preserve and share  
our family histories and  
our local heritage.

## Contact:

Bonnie Packley  
1016 Maitland Drive  
Lockport, IL 60441

blpackley@att.net  
(815) 838.9388

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Newsletter

August 2002

## Message from the President

Do you remember the days of dating-courting and hanging out with your friends and family at *the place* where you went for fun and excitement? Remember the glow in everyone's eyes when reminiscing. These days, children like to talk about Great America, Disneyland, Sea World, Santa's Village, and the like.

Well, **Dellwood Park** was *the place* to many of our ancestors— from the time it opened officially on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1906, until it closed in the 1930s. Hundreds of thousands of people visited there. What was the excitement about? Why the glow of remembrance on people's faces?

On August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. we will meet at ***The House in the Park*** in Dellwood for an update on the research compiled by LAGHS director Erwin Klopstein. Erwin has spent hundreds of hours gathering official documents, photographs, maps, and memorabilia about the house and the park. Others have also contributed their research.

AND REMEMBER— Steve Potter's vintage reproduction postcard collection of the park is available for sale.

**Join us for a fun tour of the house and park!**

A continental breakfast will be served to society members and our special guests, the staff of the Lockport Township Park District.

—Dr. Reno G. Caneva

## LAGHS LOVES A PARADE at Old Canal Days



Riders smile for their close-up!



LAGHS new banner adorns the front of the car.

LAGHS introduced the society to the public at the Old Canal Days Parade on Friday, June 16. Dressed in period clothing, Genealogist Jacqueline Munch and Treasurer Bonnie Packley perch on the back seat. Phyllis Caneva drove her Chrysler Le Baron convertible adorned with our new banner and the U.S. flag, recognizing this year's theme: Lockport Salutes Old Glory. On Saturday and Sunday Gordon McCluskey, Reno Caneva, Bonnie Packley, Paul Burandt, and Charlene Giardina manned a table displaying memorabilia, our new membership brochure, and a photo display of LAGHS events compiled by Marge Haack.



## Chasing Your Tale- Genealogy News

by Genealogist Jacqueline Munch

During this first year of operations, we have been organizing the collections room at *The House in The Park*. We have acquired acid-free paper, an accession book, and other materials necessary for record keeping. Shelves and filing cabinets are beginning to fill up with reference material and the following items:

**Family Histories/Genealogies:** 11 family histories, 6 biographical sketches (also on file at the public library in Lockport), and 47 pedigree and family group sheets with corresponding index cards. **Research Assistance** has been given to 4 society members and several others via e-mail.

### Web sites for Research in New York State

Many early settlers came from the state of New York, and so this area was called Yankee Settlement.

Resources for NY: [resources.rootsweb.com/USA/NY.html](http://resources.rootsweb.com/USA/NY.html);  
[rootsweb.com/~nygenweb](http://rootsweb.com/~nygenweb) and [cyndislist.com/ny.htm](http://cyndislist.com/ny.htm)

Map of New York Counties:

[lib.utexas.edu/maps/states/new\\_york.gif](http://lib.utexas.edu/maps/states/new_york.gif)

Volunteer lookups in NY: [raogk.org/newyork.htm](http://raogk.org/newyork.htm)

## History Highlights

by Historian Georgene Bankroff

The items accessed this past year are just a small step in what the Society hopes to accomplish.

**Maps:** Lockport, Homer, and Romeoville areas. **Books:** *The Texaco Story: the first fifty years 1902-1952* by Marquis James A Portrait; *Biographical Album of Will County 1885*; *Woodruff's History of Will County 1878*; *The Municipal Code of Lockport 1940*; *Lockport Has a Birthday 1830-1930*; Lockport High School Year Books dated 1929, 1930, 1931; *150 Years of Faith at St. Dennis Church*. **Photo Albums:** Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church and members, and St. Dennis Catholic Church and members. **Newsletters - Quarterlies:** dating back 20 years from the Will/Grundy Genealogical Society, plus our own Society's releases. **Indexes/ Federal Censuses:** 1860 Channahon-Joliet; 1860 index/ census Will County Volumes I and II; 1860 Lockport-Wilton. **Abstracts:** Fairmont area and Will County. **Postcards:** Lockport, Canals, and Dellwood Park. **Obituaries:** 1999 nearly complete and part of 2002 is ready to be put into an album.

## THANKS FOR RECENT ADDITIONS

**Ruth Hopkins:** Postcard-Lockport's old schoolhouse, *Homer's Roll of Honor*, military records of Homer residents Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian War of 1832, Oregon Indian War, Mexican War, Civil War, and Homer cemeteries where soldiers are buried. **Monna Rowley:** *John Lane and His Steel Plow*, *Will County Early Days*, *The Rowley Family*, *Paddock/Jones Family History*, *Hadley Schools*, *Wells Corner School*, *History of Messenger's Woods*. Pictures included.

## SHARE & TELL ABOUT HOMER TOWNSHIP

AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING JULY 27

### Monna Rowley Shares Homer Heritage

Robert Haley Compares Notes with Monna Rowley



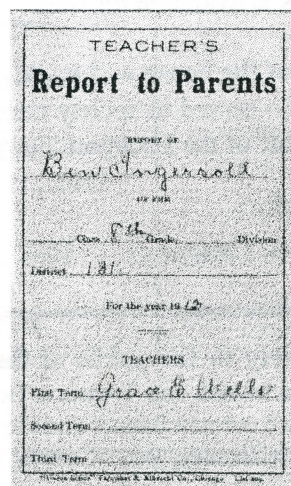
In July 1833 the Rowleys- (with friend John Lane- inventor of the steel plow- and his family) made their way from New York via the Erie Canal to Yankee Settlement. "We fought the mosquitoes . . . launched out on the prairie . . . and

arrived at our destination 'all weary and sad.'" Monna's account reflects her family records and the *History of Will County, Illinois*, first published in 1878.

The Rowleys were one of the first pioneer families who transformed the prairie into what became the townships of Homer and Lockport.

### Report Card from Wells Corner School

Signed by Teacher Grace Wells for Ben Ingersoll

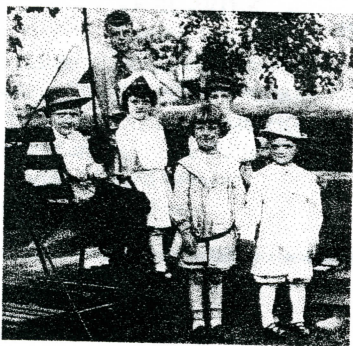


Wells Corner School (in session 1856-1957) was fondly remembered by several attending the program. Ruth Ingersoll Hopkins brought her father's 8<sup>th</sup> grade report card of 1921-- all superior marks, including "deportment" and "0" times tardy!

Originally located on the Well's farm, the building is now among those saved at the Will County Historical Society's Pioneer Settlement. A Christmas program is held in the school house every year.



## Who Are They?



Northrup Gaines, Allen Gaines, John Sloan and Winifred Sloan are 4 of 6 pictured here.

Contact LAGHS with what you know about these individuals. Call President Caneva at 838.4552 on Wednesdays or e-mail Char Giardina at: [cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us](mailto:cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us).

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### New Executive Board Member and Committee Member

The Board elected J.R. Lowery to fill the vacancy of Member-at-Large. Jack Brassal was appointed to assist Historian Georgene Bankroff with her duties.

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## HELP! HELP! HELP!

The Society needs your input on the following:

**Ideas for Articles  
in the Newsletter.**

**Ideas for New Programs  
at the Monthly Meetings.**

Contact: Char Giardina (815)353.5662  
E-mail: [cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us](mailto:cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us)

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the family of Joyce Blackmon for the donation of a bookcase-secretary unit for our conference room at *The House in The Park*

Many thanks to Geraldine Loose for her monetary contribution.

## Who Are We?

### LAGHS

#### Approves Mission Statement and Slogan

Readers may have noticed various versions of our mission statement and slogan in newsletters, flyers and such. At the July 13 board meeting, the Executive Board approved a Mission Statement as presented by the Secretary. It reads:

“To bring the people of the Lockport area together to preserve and share our family histories and our local heritage.”

The Executive Board also approved a slogan as presented by the Secretary. It reads:

“Preserving the Past is our Present to the Future.”



### Welcome New Members

We welcome Loretto D. Szucs, Mr. & Mrs. James Peraud, Otto & Bernice Konow, Edward & Ann Karkut, and Mary Beth Meader—all of Lockport, who joined the society in July 2002.

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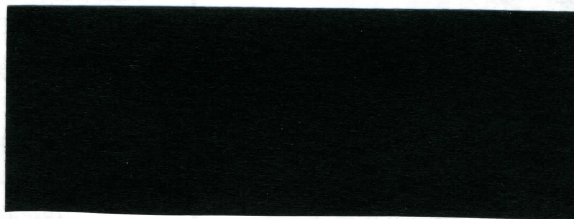
### RESIDENTIAL SURVEY Shared with LAGHS

LAGHS has received a copy of a survey from the City. Approximately 153 homes and businesses and 98 other structures (mostly garages) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Streets between Hamilton and Madison Streets were surveyed. The purpose of the study was to ascertain how many homes were potentially historically significant. Owners of the properties will receive a letter explaining how they might be eligible for various historic designations and what responsibilities those designations entail.

The City received a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to commission the survey and will soon submit a grant for monies to conduct additional surveys of potential historic structures in Lockport. LAGHS is pleased to place a copy of the document in our collection.

Lockport Area Genealogical  
& Historical Society  
c/o Bonnie Packley, treasurer  
1016 Maitland Drive  
Lockport, IL 60441

(815) 838. 9388



## Inside

Genealogy & History Reports  
Homer Program Photos  
Old Canal Days Parade

**Reminder: Renew Your Membership— TODAY!**

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

August 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m.

*The House in the Park*

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### Membership Meeting

August 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am

*Annual  
Historic Site Tour  
Continental Breakfast*

*Tour of Dellwood and  
The House in the Park*

**Call Bonnie for Reservations:  
815.838.9388**

### Great Lakes Navy Band

August 14<sup>th</sup>

7 PM

Performing Arts Center  
in Dellwood Park

*Veterans as special guests  
will be honored.*

Last concert of the season..

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Look for upcoming news about

*A Tribute From the Heart—  
Remembering September 11 , 2001*

on SEPTEMBER 11 , 2002

LTHS EAST CAMPUS  
AUDITORIUM  
7:30 PM

Lockport Chamber  
of Commerce

### *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing*

August 28<sup>th</sup>

Broken Arrow Golf Club

Register at Chamber Office

***Deadline Aug 21<sup>st</sup>***

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For information,  
call Sharon Hannah:  
815.838.3357



Annual

# Historic Site Tour & Continental Breakfast



(Brief Business Meeting)



Tour the House & the Park  
with Erwin Klopstein

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24  
8:30 a.m.

***THE HOUSE IN THE PARK***  
DELLWOOD PARK

Call Bonnie for **Reservations**: 815.838.9388  
Free-will Donation