

Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society



2nd Year, Volume 2, No.4

APRIL 2002

"Preserving the Past
is our Present
to the Future"

Executive Board

OFFICERS

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

Richard Cronholm

Erwin Klopfsstein

William Molony

James Raue

Newsletter Staff

Charlene Giardina

Judith Richardson

Bonita Packley

E-mail correspondence:

cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us

Membership Dues and Special

Events Tickets: Bonnie

Packley, treasurer

1016 Maitland Drive

Lockport, IL 60441

Message from the President

Like everything else, events are historical moments which either make us feel fuzzy warm and nostalgic or deeply saddened. Sometimes they make us feel awestruck; sometimes they can even be life changing.

Whatever the case, we have had quite a few great events during our monthly meetings which are based on the old fashioned get-togethers of the past where people share experiences, stories, and history.

We have more events planned as we gather background for our book. In April we welcome Brother Martin from Lewis University, who will discuss genealogy. In May Lillian Caneva will tell us about the Lockport Twp. High School Band and how they won the national Music Man Contest. June celebrates our society's anniversary by holding our annual banquet. In July we'll explore Homer Township and our common ancestry of Yankee Settlement. Our August brunch and house tour will take place at The House in the Park.

In short, we are having what is called "a good time." Our attendance has been exceptional for the size of our organization which is approaching 110 members. We hope to have 150 by this time next year.

Thank you for your interest and your faithfulness.

Dr. Reno G. Caneva, DPM

All other correspondence: LAGHS / "The House in the Park," 1911 S. Lawrence. Lockport, IL 60441

Chasing Your Tale—genealogy tips

By Jacqueline Munch
LAGHS GENEALOGIST

AN IRISH TALE

This story was taken from The Lambert Family History, written by Loretta Lambert, granddaughter of John Lambert and Margaret Phelan, and donated to LAGHS.

Thomas and Bridget Lambert and their seven children were all born in County Cork, Ireland. Due to the potato famine, the great wind, and persecution by their English landlords, they decided to seek a better life in America. They drove their cattle to market, but the tax collectors were waiting to take their money from them. Thomas and his four sons beat them back with black thorn sticks, took their money, and the family then boarded the ship.

They arrived in America in 1858 or 1859 and got as far as Greenbush, New York when Thomas, the father, died. Bridget and her children went on to Illinois to settle near the Ward family they had known in Ireland. They lived on a farm on Romeo Road which later belonged to the Friehe family. The Lambert family attended St. Dennis Church in Lockport.

John, the eldest son, bought 45 acres next to his mother and built a house there. He married Margaret Phelan, whom he had known in Ireland. His first year on the farm, he chopped holes in the sod with an axe to plant corn.

The other children: Thomas married, lived in Joliet and worked on the E.J.&E. Railroad. Daniel married Bridget Fitzgerald and lived in Lockport. Catherine married

Daniel Ward, a farmer who lived on Weber Road. Mary married Matthew Gregory and after his death, she married a man named

Smith and lived in Lockport on 13th Street. Elizabeth married John McCormick and lived in Rochester, Minnesota. Martin, the youngest, went off to look for work and was never heard from again.

HELP OUR FAMILY HISTORY COLLECTION TO GROW!

Please send us any information you have on your family history and encourage others you know to do the same. Recent donations include the following surnames (and more): Apgar, Bankroff, Berlin, Bruce, Fracaro, Gillett, Goodale, Hamilton, Hrpcha, Lane, Lyon, McCanna, Munch, Norton, Pesavento, Rigoni, Rodeghiero, Runyan, Sisson, Ward, Wiershem, and Worst.



HELP FOR IRISH RESEARCH

A computer website that includes many, many resources for Irish research is: cyndislist.com/Ireland.htm Some passenger lists for ships leaving Ireland can be found on: scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/browse/links/passoriginbelfast.htm

Let me know if you need lookups on census records. E-mail: jlunch@earthlink.net or phone: 815-838-3795.

I Love a Mystery Lockport Irish and Tour of St. Dennis Church

by Georgene Bankroff

I assume they grew hay in Haytown or else why the nickname?

Whenever Haytown / St. Dennis Church is mentioned, it is always referred to as being north of Lockport or in Lemont. It probably was in the southernmost section of the town we now refer to as Lemont. Why the mystery? No one is positive where the church that became St. Dennis first originated. Here is another theory.

Father John Plunkett was one of the first Catholic missionaries sent to the I & M Canal area in 1838 to tend to the needs of the Irish workers, some of whom were dying with cholera or malaria. His area of ministry extended from Corkstown (now known as Lemont), Emmetsburg (Haytown), Romeo, the Sag, Plainfield, Aurora, etc.

Missionaries said mass in a small frame building in Haytown before Fr. Plunkett arrived. In 1838 he paid \$600 for the church of Emmetsburg and \$2 to file the deed. These notes are in his church records which are kept at St. Patrick Church, Joliet. This building was later moved to Lockport proper by Fr. Dennis Ryan in 1846. That church was the beginning of St. Dennis Parish.

There was a small parcel of



Bonnie Packley and Louise Morris shows off LAGHS new exhibition banner in front of the mural that Louise painted.

Georgene Bankroff led society members on a tour of the church on March 23, 2002. Below is a sample of her research on the topic. _____

land in Cook County located on the Will County / Cook County border, platted on October 2, 1836, as Emmetsburg and then recorded in Cook County on January 5, 1837 by four Chicago men. This land, section 30, is next to the I & M Canal, sliced by New Avenue and the Santa Fe Railroad. The southern end of the little rectangle is the Des Plaines Valley cliff face.

Fr. Plunkett referred to the area as Emmetsburg in 1838 because the land had been platted by and named Emmetsburg by four Chicago men on October 2, 1836, but the local people still referred to it as Haytown, as it had been

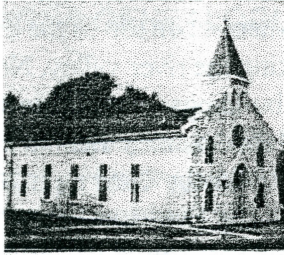
formerly called. Only hay is grown there today because the soil is thin and suitable only for hay.

At one time the south part of section 30, Emmetsburg, had thirteen shanties on top of the bluff overlooking the river valley. None of the buildings remain today. Some of the shanties' lumber was used to build the barn next to a private home that stands on the property today.

So there are several reasons to believe that the Haytown church was in Lemont. The first is that Fr. Plunkett recorded his purchase of the church in Emmitsburg which is on the I & M Canal maps, and second that a Lemont historian states that there was a collection of shanties on that section 30 bluff, a fact corroborated by the present owner of the land. A trip to that area now shows that only hay is grown there. If the Catholic Church owned a church in Haytown / Emmitsburg, it would be the logical structure for Fr. Dennis Ryan to move south to Lockport in 1846, since the Irish canal diggers were moving southward with the portion of the canal being dug.

What is needed now is someone involved in real estate, who can find land records and/or an archeologist who could get permission to do a "dig" on that land. Surely there are some artifacts to attest to the hard working Irishmen who gave so much of their lives to build the Illinois & Michigan Canal. I have more information if you are serious about solving our Haytown / St. Dennis mystery.

Gladys Fox Museum



Upcoming Meetings

Membership Meeting April 27 and May 25 8:30 am
Gladys Fox Museum, corner of 9th & Washington

Board Meetings April 13 and May 11 8:30 am
"The House in the Park" in Dellwood Park

Welcome New Members

William Goodale, Louise Morris, Ferry Sterioti,
Eunice Shinn and Helen Ward of Lockport and
Joanne Sterioti, presently of Naperville.



Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society

"The House in the Park"

c/o Lockport Township Park District

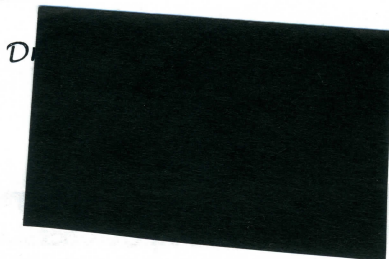
1911 S. Lawrence Street

Lockport, IL 60441

For information:

Bonnie Packley

(815) 838. 9388



Brother Joseph F. Martin presents



Tips and Tricks for Genealogy Research

April 27, 2002

Gladys Fox Museum

9th & Washington Streets, Lockport, IL

The Lockport Area Genealogy & Historical Society's meeting and program for April 27 will be held at the Gladys Fox Museum at 8:30 a.m.

The program will highlight resources and techniques for beginners in family history research. Attention will focus on archives and libraries in Illinois and on Internet resources.

Joseph F. Martin is a De La Salle Christian Brother at Lewis University near Joliet. Author, educator and public speaker, he has been researching his family history since 1970 and maintains an enviable collection of dead relatives. His articles have appeared in Everton's Genealogical Helper and online with Ancestry Daily News.

Participants will find this presentation both educational and entertaining. Handouts will be provided at the end of the program, practical enough for those who have started or want to start researching their family's history. For information about the society and to reserve a seat for this presentation, please call Char Giardina at (815) 353.5662.