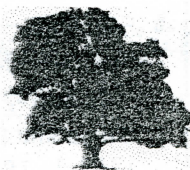


LOCKPORT AREA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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; Member-at-Large- Jack Brassal



*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.

Year 3, Volume 3, No. 11

Newsletter

November 2002

Message from the President

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving!

The busy holiday season is upon us, and there are only two more society meetings left in 2002.

I hope you will join us for our November meeting on Saturday, November 23rd at 8:30 a.m. at the Gladys Fox Museum. The Share & Tell session will focus on Swedish heritage.

There is so much to share and learn about all of the ethnic groups who have contributed to the growth and development of our community. During this past year we have just begun to explore the rich legacy passed on to us.

It is important to our society's mission to preserve family histories, so bring your memories, your old photos, and your memorabilia to share with the group. And, a Swedish refreshment is likely to show up at our hospitality table.

Mark your calendars
for this special morning get-together.

— Dr. Reno G. Caneva

Share & Tell



Swedish Heritage

November 23rd, 2002

Brief Business Meeting

~

Bring your memories
and memorabilia.

~

Bring a guest!

~

8:30 a.m.

~

Gladys Fox Museum
Corner of 9th & Washington

Newsletter Staff:

Char Giardina
Bonnie Packley
Judy Richardson

Send Us Your Ideas for Newsletter Articles and Programs.

Lockport Area G & H Society
c/o Bonnie Packley
1016 Maitland Drive
Lockport, IL 60441

Phone and E-mail Contacts:

Bonnie: 815.838.9388
Char: 815.353.5662

Bonnie: blpackley@att.net
Char: cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.us

Chasing Your Tale—Genealogy News

by Genealogist Jacqueline Munch

Our society has been the recipient of some fascinating local family histories. In upcoming newsletters, I will share with our readers some of the genealogical history of these families.

I'd like to share with you the story of one family who has made a great impact on our community. Descendants of the original settlers and immigrants can be found among many Lockport families today.

WALTER BACKGROUND

The following account is taken from information that has come to our society from Glenn White, the great-great-grandson of Andreas Walter and Ursula Glaubin. Included in the family history given to our society for our archives are excerpts from Michael Walter's journal and a comprehensive genealogy.

The Walter's left Darmstadt, Germany, in March 1851 with their two children, Michael and Elizabeth Walter. They took a small boat on the River Main to Rotterdam, Holland, where they caught a steamer to London, England and then boarded the sailing vessel "Victoria" on April 1, 1851.

Upon arrival in America, they took a river steamer up the Hudson River in New York to Albany and then through the Erie Canal to Buffalo, where they transferred to a lake steamer for Chicago. There they were met by cousins who took them to Geneva, Illinois. For a time Michael lived on a farm in Du Page County with his sister,

Elizabeth, who had married Boniface Ott.

In 1855, Michael moved to Dixon and then to Lockport in 1856. In 1859 he joined a group of other men going west to look for gold. Back in Illinois during the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union Army and fought in several major engagements, including Shiloh. After the war, he returned to Lockport and opened a grocery and feed store on the northwest corner of 9th and State Streets.

Michael's first marriage was to Margaret Pitt. They had nine children: John (a superintendent of the I&M Canal Office), Fred (a Joliet lawyer), Frank, Bob, Annie, Jennie, Addie, Emma, and Nellie. When Nellie was born, her mother died, and Michael took her to his sister, Elizabeth, where she lived until she finished grade school. Nellie married Howard Sager Norton, grandson of Hiram Norton, early Lockport entrepreneur. Sometime later, Michael married his second wife, Addie Heron, a school teacher. Michael lived at 320 Fifth Street, but on the sidewalk in front of his house is "126" and "M. Walter." He died sometime after 1900 and is buried in the Lockport City Cemetery.

OTT BACKGROUND

Elizabeth Walter's husband, Boniface Ott, emigrated from Baden-Baden, Germany, in 1842. He lived in New York and Canada before coming to Du Page County, Illinois, in 1846. In 1865 he moved his family to Gooding's Grove in Homer Township, just east of Lockport. Boniface and Elizabeth had

thirteen children, two of whom died before 1881: Frank, Michael, Eva, Catherine, Mary, Elizabeth, John, Kate, Peter, Clara, Emma, Marguerite and George.

DESCENDANTS OF
ELIZABETH WALTER AND
BONIFACES' SON
MICHAEL:

Many of these surnames are found in Lockport today, and some have already contributed their family histories.

**BENTLEY, HARTMAN,
HOMERDING, OTT,
RUTTER, WELTER,
WHITE, ZIESEMER**

Please contact me with any information you have related to the above family names.

Family Archives Update

All family histories donated to our society are being processed at this time and will be made available for research at our offices at *The House In The Park*.

GOOD NEWS! FREE!

The 1880 U.S. Census, searchable by name, is now available online for FREE at the Mormon Church website, familysearch.org. Also available are the 1881 British and Canadian censuses.

If you have information to share with LAGHS, please contact me at jlunch@earthlink.net, 815-838-3795, or mail to me at our society's address.

Share & tell: *The Big Red Star* with *Bonnie Packley* and society members and guests

■ OCTOBER 26TH MEETING AND PROGRAM

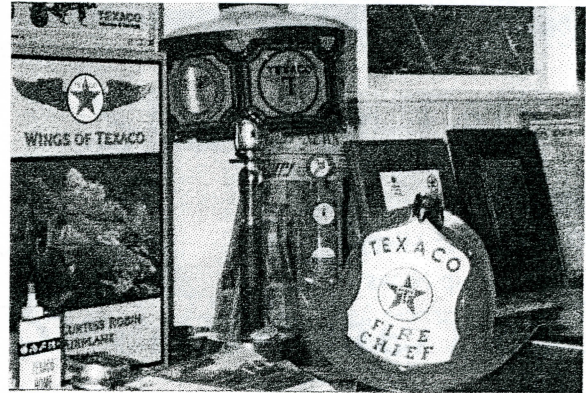
Bonnie Packley went right to the heart of our Share & Tell session by asking the members to comment on their experiences and knowledge of Texaco.

"The personal side of the story is what our organization is all about. We like to learn about the history of a topic, but at our meetings what we appreciate most is hearing from our members, Bonnie said."



Bonnie poses in a Texaco fire chief's hat for staff photographer Judy Richardson. The children's sized hats were available at Texaco gas stations.

A Table Filled with Memorabilia



Members contributed to the memorabilia tables and to the discussion led by Bonnie. She asked, "Anyone want to talk about their time there?"

Bob Sullivan spoke right up, "I started there in 1942. And the plant manager's name was 'Phillips' and his successor was named 'Holmes.' Does anybody remember the Holmes family?" That prompted a chain of memories for the next hour.

Jim Bankroff showed a video of the demolition of the Cat-cracker. All enjoyed bagels and other treats donated by ChevronTexaco, Lockport Plant. Judy R. video taped the session and transcribed the dialogue for our archives.

HELP STAFF THE LAGHS TABLE AT:

Christmas Crossroads

2 hour shifts

Saturday, Nov. 23, 9a-5p
Sunday, Nov. 24, 10a- 4p.

Call Bonnie at (815) 838.9388.

We will hand out our new membership brochures and feature our history and event displays, and sell our Postcard Collections.

From the Treasurer's Desk . . .

by Bonnie Packley

Welcome New Members

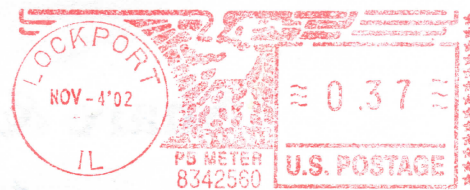


Jim W. Bruce and family of Plainfield, Mary Lukasik of Lombard, and Frank & Beryl Swenson of Mokena.

Your membership Expiration Date appears on the mailing label and will be updated periodically.

Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society

c/o Bonnie Packley
1016 Maitland Drive
Lockport, IL 60441



Vintage Reproduction

Postcards

~Dellwood Park~

~Downtown Lockport~

\$39.95 (each set of 12)



Inside

Genealogy & History

Membership News

Upcoming programs

Lockport Area G & H Society

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 19th 8:30 a.m.
at *The House In The Park*

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 23rd 8:30 am
Gladys Fox Museum
Corner of 9th & Washington

SHARE & TELL

Swedish Heritage
Bring your memories and
memorabilia. Bring a guest!

Illinois State
Museum Lockport Gallery

DOLLS IN THE LOOKING GLASS: The Joy E. Orozco Collection

Nov. 23, 2002 - Mar. 14, 2003
Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
201 W. 10th Street

Lockport Woman's Club

CHRISTMAS CROSSROADS

Craft Fair / Raffles /

November 23th & 24th
Lockport East High School Campus

Visit the LAGHS' table!

13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK

December 7th 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tree lighting 5 p.m. Central Square

ALSO

Community Development Center
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
11 a.m. Old Police Station

STOP BY

MAIN STREET LOCKPORT
for hot chocolate & treats
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
1035 S. State Street

Will County Historical Society

PIONEER CHRISTMAS at the Pioneer Settlement

6:30 PM-8:00 PM Programs
in the School House, on the ½ hour.

Crafts, Carolers, Period Dress,
Loads of Christmas Spirit.

Call 815.838.5080 for info.

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Same Time  
Gaylord Building Christmas  
Open House  
(guided exhibit tour 10 a.m.)

#### Lockport Township Park District

Contact the park district  
for a schedule of  
Senior Activities  
and Family Events

www.lockportpark.org  
815.838.1183