

A Newsletter of the **Lisle Heritage Society**

Lisle, DuPage County, Illinois
Vol. XXXIII, No. 4

June 2012

Annual Picnic

Thursday, June 28, 2012, 6:30 PM
Museums of Lisle Station Park

By Carl Grumbles

Our June 28 Heritage Society meeting will be the annual catered picnic. Wheatstack will be preparing the food. We will be gathering on the Lisle Station Park grounds at 6:30 p.m. The Park District is cooperating with us by leaving up their large tent. Next year's officers will be installed, and there will be time for enjoyable discussions.

You will need to indicate a choice on the slip below as to which style of entrée you desire. Cut off the slip or print it and mail it by June 17th along with your check of \$8.40 for each meal desired. Along with the chosen entrée there will be tossed salad and dressing, veggies, roll, and dessert.

Please bring your own plate, utensils, and non-alcoholic beverage.



Mark Your Calendar

July 4

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Museums of
Lisle Station Park

Following Parade
which starts 11 AM

September 15 – 16

Depot Days

Museums of
Lisle Station Park

Noon to 5 PM

PICNIC ORDER FORM

Name _____

Telephone _____

Chicken Marsala # _____ @ \$8.40 = \$ _____

Sausage and Peppers # _____ @ \$8.40 = \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Checks payable to: LISLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Order Form and payment to Carl Grumbles, 5709 Essex, Lisle, IL, 60532
by **JUNE 17**

President's Message

Dear Members:

Depot Days Brings Back Petting Zoo and Adds Luncheon

We've just added three special elements to our Depot Days celebration on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16.

After a year's absence, the very popular Miller's Petting Zoo will be returning for both days. This wonderful collection of farm animals is great fun for children and adults to interact with and it serves as a great reminder of what Lisle was like in the early days.

Second, Taylor's Battery, a Civil War re-enactment group, will send six of its members along with their 4,000-pound cannon to help our annual celebration get off with a Big Bang. Beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday and hourly throughout both Saturday and Sunday, the group will fire the cannon to help us commemorate the Civil War.

The Battery dresses in historically accurate uniforms and has several exhibits showing the different types of shells used in the cannon as well as detailing what life was like in 1861. The members love to share their knowledge of the period and should help all of us learn more about this important period in our history.

Finally, we are putting together a buffet luncheon based on dishes served in the homes of famous people alive during the Civil War era. The luncheon will be prepared and served by Wheatstack, the highly acclaimed restaurant operated by the Lisle Park District at the River Bend Golf Course. More details in upcoming newsletters as the details are completed.

Annual Picnic

I hope all of you are planning to join us for our annual picnic beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, in the Commons Area of the Museums of Lisle Station Park. We'll have the tent up to protect us from the elements, and remember, you can't eat at home for the per person price that **Carl Grumbles** has arranged, and you certainly can't have as many people to talk with. See you there. (See the related story elsewhere in the newsletter.)

New Officers

Your Board of Directors has been unanimously re-elected for another term. They are: President, **Wayne Dunham**; VP of Programs, **Carl Grumbles**; VP of Membership, **Cathy Cawiezel**; VP/Publicity & Newsletter Editor, Nadine Filipiak; Recording Secretary, **Tom Zakosek**; Corresponding Secretary, **Marilyn Cawiezel**; Treasurer, **Joe Bennett**. Thanks to you all for agreeing to serve another term. Your help, ideas and guidance have been invaluable.

Sincerely,
Wayne Dunham
President

Lisle Heritage Society
2011-12 Board

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Lisle Heritage Society
Board
Meetings are the second
Tuesday of every month
except December and are
open to the general
membership.

The Newsletter is
published January, March,
April, June, September,
October, and December.

Three Sisters Garden Update

By Heidi Otto



Heidi Otto, Donna and Jim Fousek
Photo by Bob Goodwin

On April 12th ground was broken for the new Three Sisters Garden. Jim Fousek tilled a 15' by 25' plot while Donna Fousek pulled rock after rock out of the soil. Bob Goodwin lent a hand extracting an enormous boulder from the center of the new garden. In addition to the rototiller, a crow bar and picks and shovels combined with a lot of elbow grease resulted in a clear garden plot.

The garden planting will be done in stages. The Lancaster Sure Crop Corn was planted first. Once the corn is established Mostoller Wild Goose Beans and Patty Pan Squash will be planted. The beans will replenish the nitrogen levels in the soil depleted by the corn, and the squash will act as a ground cover to keep weeds at bay. This companion planting is a Native American technique that is kind to the earth.

Signage has been installed that provides a brief description of the garden and proclaims that it is a cooperative effort on the part of the Lisle Heritage Society, The Village of Lisle and The Lisle Park District. Just like the Museums of Lisle Station Park.... we can be proud of what we accomplish working together.

We are Grateful to our Generous Donors

Stella Schmitt Memorial Fund

In April Lisle Heritage Society member **Lynn Russell** of Monson, MA, sent the following note:

In memory of Stella Schmitt, I am enclosing a check.

She was a lovely woman whom I met through Lisle Heritage Society. I admired her for all her work for the Society and for her caring for her husband and family over the years.

The Society will have good use of the money in her name.

Also donating to the newly created Fund were members of the **Albert Cawiezel Family**.

From A Lisle Heritage Society Founder

Ernie and Val Ensalaco sent a generous check to Heidi Otto with a notation stating she had read about the great work on the gardens at Lisle Station Park and wanted to make a donation in memory of the Founding Members of the Lisle Heritage Society. It was she who suggested an historical society be formed and was one of the most active in making it happen.

General Fund

Again this year **Dick and Nancy Wilson** sent a donation to Lisle Heritage Society. Nancy said she knows it will be put to good use.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Dan Kinter
8750 Rushside Dr.
Pinckney, MI 48169

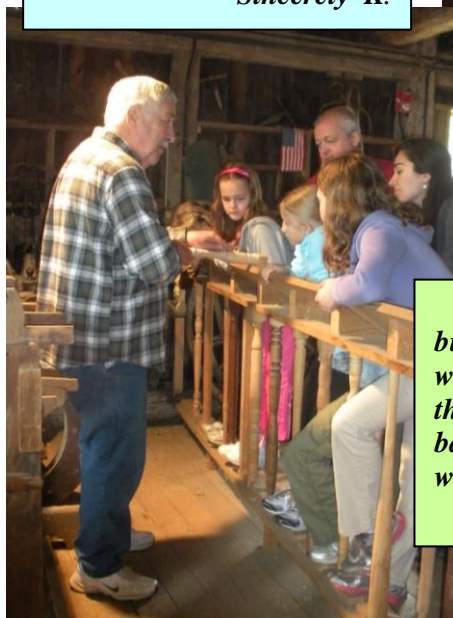
Nancy Zakosek
55725 Park Meadows Dr.
Lisle, IL 60540-3804

School Days

Photos by Marilyn Cawiezel

Thank you for the cookie. What I ledrned is that Black smith's can make anything out of steel. My favorite part is watching the woodworker do his job.

Sincerely K.



Tom Zakosek

Thank you so much for showing us all your exhibits and teaching us stuff from the past. Also my favorite part was mostly everything. What is yours? The exhibits were fun and cool and I want to go again.

Sincerelly, K.



Tom Both

Thank you for showing me how they had an outhouse and the kichen was not in the house. I learned that there is a creamery in Lisle. My favorite part was the Blacksmith because I saw how they made tools.

Siincerly, B.

I learned that school is easy there but doing home is hard doing all that work I can not do that. And I learnd that the houses do not have bathrooms. My faveret part was when I get to see the houses.

Sinserlie, A.

Joe Bennett

Dear Lisle Depot Volunteer,

Thank you for showing us the Lisle Depot. My favorite part was watching the model trains. I liked when the trains stopped so I could look close at them. I liked seeing the kitchen and watching the bread baking. I liked chocolate chip cookie.

Sincerely, F.

Thank you for taking your time to help out. My favorite part was when I got to go on something in the caboose. It was very fun. I want to go there again someday. It was the best field trip ever. I am going to go some day again I hope because it was the most fun in the whole galaxy. I learned that it was hard in the olden days. Very hard. Thank you.

Sincerely, E.



Jim Sheahan

I leared a lot at the Lisle Depot. I never knew that there was so much to Lisle's history until our class went to the Lisle Depot. My favorite part was when we got to go into the school that children before us used. I also liked the kitchen. We got to have cookies! I hope I will be able to come back sometime.

Sincerely, A.



Carl Grumbles

Stepping Into the Past with Third Graders School Days

By Carl Grumbles

May 2012 was not any different from other Mays at the Museum Complex. One hundred and eighty two third graders and their teachers plus all their parent helpers came to visit School Days once again at the Lisle Museum. During the winter the students all have some social studies lessons at school about Illinois and Lisle in the 1800's. About February we usually begin to receive emails from the two in town schools requesting dates to visit in early May.



In a fantastic world everything would just happen on the dates picked. Well, we do live in a real world that takes many humans to all pull together and make events happen. We do request members of the Heritage Society to give of their time to instruct the students on the two given dates. Well, in true team spirit many arrange their schedule, change medical appoints and block out one or two Tuesday mornings.

Between 8:30 and 9:20 on the given day dozens of smiling faces arrive on the complex. The classes are loaded with questions about the buildings and the lives of people who resided in them. Society members assume responsibility for a given location station and groups from the classes rotate from location to location. A special air boat horn is sounded to announce when this rotation needs to take place. None of our members were

children during the mid to late 1800's but with some notes and personal readings they all try to share children's lives in our Lisle area before the turn of the last century. Schools usually try and ending the morning with a picnic lunch and I often hear from the students that they are sure glad the live now with all its conveniences and electronics.

We realize some of you need to work or couldn't volunteer this year but like the Cubs we always will have next year. If you would like to be a part just let me know and we would be glad to include you for one or two mornings in May 2013.

We also have to say a big THANK YOU to the following people for giving of their time and putting up with cookie crumbs and finger prints: **Jim and Donna Fousek, Nadine Filipiak, Bob Goodwin, Tom Zakosek, Tom Both, Joe Bennett, Pat Cawiezel, Bob and Connie Vodicka, Jim Sheahan, Julie La Fond, Marilyn Cawiezel and Cathy Cawiezel** taking photos, and the whole army of helpers from the Park District and the Heritage Society who have done so much work over the years to make the Lisle Museum Complex what it is today. THANK YOU ALL !

Thank you for showing me how life was a long time ago. I think life was more difficult in those years because of farming and no electronics. One of my favorite stations was the Blacksmith, I like it because of the hard work.

Sincerely, E.

Thank you so much for teaching us about how Lisle was in the past. I really enjoyed it. I really liked it when we saw the wood carving. I also liked it when you told us about the different chores. Another thing I liked is the train. It was fun telling us about how trains were at the past. The last thing I liked was the kitchen station. It was so fun because I really liked the cookies.

Sincerely, V.

Dear Lisle Depot Volunteers,

Thank you very much for teaching us about what Lisle looked like in the past and what chores the kids do in the past. T also that you for the cookies, they were delicious! You taught me a lot about how trains have changed. Again, thank you for taking time out of your schedule to teach us about Lisle's history without even getting paid!

Sincerely, E.

News and Notes

By Marilyn Cawiezel

Tina's Closet Celebrated a Silver Anniversary May 5

A gala celebration of the twenty fifth anniversary of Tina's Closet, 4745 Main Street in Lisle, took place May 5. Formally attired guests enjoyed an elegant celebration. Lisle Heritage Society professional member Tina Kavakourtis opened her business in a one room store a quarter of a century ago and eventually it expanded into three store spaces serving not only Lisle, but many surrounding communities.

Our warm congratulations and best wishes for many, many more years of success!

Leo's Cleaners Turns 65

In July of 1947 Leo Callan started his dry cleaning business in Lisle. We extend anniversary congratulations to Leo's son, Dennis, and Dennis' partner, Steve Saul, and will write more about Lisle's oldest business in our September Newsletter.

Michelle Raht Married Roberto Kennedy on May 4

Michelle Lynn Raht of Sugar Grove exchanged wedding vows with Roberto Kennedy of Aurora at Chapel in the Woods in Sycamore on May 4.

She graduated from North Central College. He is an artist. While she was at work at Meijer in Fox Valley, he placed a note on her car's windshield stating he wanted to meet her. That meeting led to another and another and finally to their wedding. They reside in Sugar Grove.

Michelle is the granddaughter of **Shirley Raht**, a lifetime member of Lisle Heritage Society.

Birdie Sheahan Becomes Great Grandmother Again



Mike and Holly Sheahan of Phoenix, Arizona became parents of a daughter, Taylor Sheahan, on April

10. Taylor is the third great-grandchild of **Birdie Sheahan** who has ten grandchildren. **Jim Sheahan** is the baby's great uncle.

Nate Marchese, Sarah Carlson Pronounce Wedding Vows

Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford was the site of the wedding of Sarah Eva Carlson and Nate Marchese. The reception was held at Cliffbreakers in Rockford.

The couple met while attending Augustana College. Their friendship was renewed after Nate's service in the Peace Corps and then attending law school at Washington and Lee, and Sarah's completing a Master's program on International Relations in London.

The couple now reside in San Diego where he works at Gordon and Rees law firm and she is a free lance writer.

Nate is the son of Lisle Heritage Society professional member **Dr. Frank Marchese** and his wife Jeanette.

Making Music Over 50 Years

Dr. Frank Marchese's father, Andy Marchese, was band director at Benet Academy for 37 years, retiring in 1995. Again this year he played his trumpet for the Benet Prom, something he has done for more than 50 years. He also teaches private lessons.



More News and Notes . . .

It's a Wonderful First for Phyllis Madrigali

John James Simon Gross arrived April 6. He is the son of Brad and **Cathy Gross** of Chicago Heights. He is the first grandchild of Lisle Heritage Society Lifetime member **Phyllis Madrigali**. The baby's mother, a former Lisle resident, is a Lisle Heritage Society member, as is her sister, **Mena Ryan**. Mena and her husband, who live in Saskatoon, SK Canada, were in Lisle when John was born and got to get acquainted with him.



We Applaud Shirley Raht

May 15 seventeen years ago Shirley Raht became Faith United Methodist Church's secretary, co-editor of the church's Newsletter, and Director of the Music Ministry. On May 15 of this year she retired, but continues to direct the choir.

She was overwhelmed at her retirement party, only expecting coffee and cake. The church's altar was covered with yellow roses in tribute, she was part of the liturgy, and was the recipient of two plaques, one documenting the highlights of her service to the church, which she had written.

Our well wishes to her. Some of us remember when she was a member of our Heritage Singers who performed so beautifully at our special events.

Museum Post

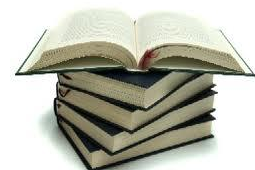
By Brian Failing

Happy summer! The time sure flies by. Last night we had a nice turnout for our third annual Memorial Day Veterans Forum. Beginning this week the museum will be open for our summer hours, which to me is very exciting. We are excited to see how the addition of Tuesday evenings helps the exposure of our facility. This summer the museum will screen the second Night at the Museum movie on Thursday, July 19 at dusk and have ghost stories with Diane Ladley on Thursday, August 16 at 7:30 p.m. I hope everyone enjoyed the Memorial Day Picnic, and I hope to see some of you on the fourth of July. The museum will be open following the parade. Please let me know if you would be willing to be a greeter for an hour after the parade. (Lunch will be provided).

Friends of Lisle Library Invite You to Programs 2:00 PM Lisle Library Meeting Room, 777 Front Street

Proceeds from the semi-annual used book sales help make the Friends' sponsored lectures, travelogues, and other special programs possible.

June 24 – Historic interpreter: Terry Lynch as Patrick Henry
July 15 – Chris Walz: Woody Guthrie Centennial Concert
August 12 – Lighthouses of the Great Lakes



Reminiscing: Lisle's May 1946 Fete

By Bea Bennett

Continued from April 2012 issue of the Newsletter

There was a lot of applauding that night. People applauded again as Miss Schiesher, with impeccable posture and grooming, welcomed everyone, introduced everyone on the platform, and had everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

On cue, the first grade teacher led her students to the infield. They moved to their music, and people applauded. As the program progressed, the applause became heartier and heartier, not because the routines got better and better, but because on this warm spring night people felt like celebrating – celebrating their kids, the school, Lisle, freedom. Winter was over. Their joy mounted, expressed by clapping. It felt good. It was Lisle at its best.

The eight graders finally stood, proud, their blue and white ribbons pinned to new suits and dresses. They walked in pairs to the maypole and, as rehearsed, each solemnly bent to pick up a streamer, boys taking one color and girls taking the other. They formed a circle around the pole and began the dance, boys stepping one way and girls stepping the other, lifting their streamers over, then under the next person's streamer, until the long streamers were fully unbraided and extended. Then, with precision, the dancers raised their streamers high, reversed direction, and began again, swooping and lifting, until all the streamers were again braided onto the pole. It was stately, a surprise glimpse of kids briefly matured. Then, they too returned to their seats.

Next came speeches by the DuPage County Superintendent of Schools, the President of the PTA, commanders of the American Legion and VFW, then my mom. Miss Schiesher introduced Mom, who represented the Women's Auxiliary of the VFW and who would present the award to one graduate chosen by the PTA and faculty for exemplifying good citizenship. The winner's name was sealed in an envelope and entrusted to Miss Schiesher. She now gave the envelope to mom who would announce the winner. Mom opened the envelope, looked at the name, then stopped, embarrassed; the winner was her daughter (my sister), Margaret Carlson.

Next Miss Schiesher introduced Ralph Cano, who looked proud in a sombrero. The crowd actually stood up, clapping even before he sang one note, relieved that he was okay. Probably every kid in school had rushed home with the story of what had happened to Ralph that afternoon. He sang the popular "Mexicali Rose," a beautiful melody which his rich voice carried as easily as the breeze that was finally beginning to stir.

Almost as an anticlimax, each student in the Class of 1946 was called by name and stepped forward to receive a diploma, and the May Fete ended.

In Memorium

Nathan Lewis Mosby

Nathan Lewis Mosby, 20, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died April 7 in a car accident near Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida where he attended college. A gifted scholar, he was active in college affairs and participated in college service learning projects in Kenya, Puerto Rico, and St. Petersburg.

He is survived by his parents, Mark and Lori Mosby; brother, Noah; grandparents Cleveland and Jacqueline Mosby of Lisle (Lisle Heritage Society members) and Thomas and Joan Lanciani of Massachusetts' and uncle, two aunts, and two cousins.

Bernice Linchester 1923 - 2012



Bernice M. Linchester, a long time Lisle resident, died April 5. She was born February 13, 1923 in Cicero.

Bernice earned her education at St. Joan of Arc Grade School, Nazareth Academy in LaGrange, Naperville High School, and business school. During World War II she served on the Ration Board in Lisle. After many years of service, she retired as a Budget Assistant for the Atomic Energy Division at Argonne national Laboratory. She was named "Lisle Woman of the Year" by the Rotary in the 1980s.

A world traveler, she also was an avid reader and loved music. She played the organ at St. Joan of Arc Church.

She was an active member of the Lisle Heritage Society. She was Newsletter editor 1991-92 and 1992-93 and belonged to the Heritage Guild. She worked in the gardens at Lisle Station Park where she planned, planted, and tended a Native American garden. She donated Christmas ornaments with a Native American theme which continue to be used each "Once Upon a Christmas." Our Potluck Dinner tables were for many years centered with fresh flowers from her extensive garden which was designated a wildlife refuge. She worked with the late Helen Tarr to save Hitchcock Woods. From early childhood she had a passion for nature – plants and wildlife, particularly birds.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Agnes Linchester; brothers George and John "Jack"; sister-in-law Juanita; and niece Cheryl Scapelli.

She is survived by her brother, Edward (the late Juanita) Linchester; nephew Edward (Christine) Linchester, and a number of grand nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joan of Arc Church in Lisle and internment was at SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Naperville. Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home, Naperville, was in charge of arrangements.

Merlin P. "Mac" McNellis 1925 - 2012



Merlin P. McNellis, 86, of Lisle passed away May 17 at his home. Born 1925 in Oak Park, he was one of five children of Charles and Ida (nee Fogli) McNellis. He attended St. Catherine's Grade School and Fenwick High School. After graduating in 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a radar technician until his discharge in 1946.

Mac then enrolled at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, and received a mechanical Engineering Degree in 1950. A partner in Eric Hello Company, which specialized in the sales of material handling equipment, he retired in 1983.

He was one of the founding benefactors of St. Francis High School in Wheaton.

After retirement, Mac became an accomplished woodworker, enjoyed gardening, and was an avid golfer. He made six holes in one and was three times a Senior Champion at Village Links in Glen Ellyn. A member of Lake Forest County Club in Daphne, Alabama, where he wintered the last 28 years, he shot his age four times: 81 twice and 83 and 85.

He was a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle and The Shrine of the Holy Cross in Alabama. He was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry (nee Riedy) McNellis; eight children from a previous marriage; 26 grandchildren; a great grandchild; and a sister.

Visitation was at Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home. Following a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joan of Arc Church, he was buried at SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Naperville.

Heritage Society Members Active in Community Events

Some already busy Lisle Heritage Society members added to their calendar of community commitments recently.

When Rhonda Snelson, Lisle Library's Public Relations/Newsletter Editor, was organizing an April 14 Expo featuring Lisle area non-profit organizations, she contacted **Joe Bennett** to see if our Society would like to participate. He and his daughter, **Sue Bennett**, prepared an exhibit and staffed it. Sue, also a Lisle Heritage Society member, lives in Indiana where she works for the National Park Service.

On May 23 the Lisle and Woodridge Chambers of Commerce sponsored an exhibit for area non-profit organizations at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton. **Joe Bennett** created a Lisle Heritage Society display, and he, **Cathy Cawiezel**, and **Marilyn Cawiezel** were there to answer queries about Lisle and to talk about our Society.

Then came Memorial Day, complete with temperature in the high 90s. Some of the Lisle Heritage Society people participating whom I saw were: **Frank and Phyllis Madrigali** who drove 20 miles to Lisle, at our request, so Frank could drive his classic truck, adorned with Lisle Heritage Society signs on the doors, in the parade.

Joe Schmitt and **Cathy Cawiezel** marched in the parade and handed out flags. **Art Dwight** was on the VFW float. Among the crowd was **Shirley Otto**. At parade's end among those going to the ceremony at Lisle Cemetery and the picnic which followed were Lisle Heritage Society members **Birdie Sheahan**, **Jim Sheahan**, **Chris LaRose**, **Don and Tracey Cook**, and **Marilyn, Cathy, and Pat Cawiezel**. **Peg Bartkowski and Lee and Julie LaFond** were at the picnic.

During the picnic at the Museums of Lisle Station Park **Bea Bennett**, **Carl and Donnajean Grumbles**, **Donna Fousek** and **Heidi Otto** were greeters in the buildings. In the Blacksmith Shop, with fire blazing in the forge, were **Jim Fousek**, **Jay Spitzer**, and **Brian Ginn**. On the lawn **Joe Bennett** and **Sue Bennett** had set up a pop up tent from which they were passing out brochures about our Society which **Cathy Cawiezel** had created.

If a Society member has been left out, please speak up.

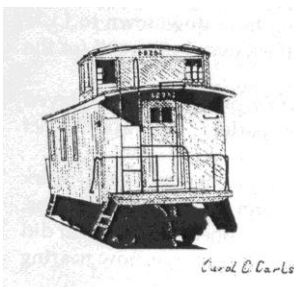
Many thanks to Ross Bishop VFW Post #5696, and the many Lisle organizations and businesses who presented the Memorial Day commemorations.



Joe Bennett at Lisle Library
Photo by Sue Bennett

Marilyn Cawiezel, Guest Editor
Lisle Heritage Society
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Cathy Cawiezel, Guest Graphic Designer



FIRST CLASS