



# Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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## President's Letter

It's a good thing we are all very flexible. A conflict in schedules resulted in a change of programs for March. We were fortunate to have Barbara Richardson available to share with us her experiences as Coroner of Lake County in a program aptly named, "Coroner's Office: We've Come a Long Way Baby". Many of us could relate to changes in the workplace from writing in ledgers, to typing carbon copy reports, finally having access to computers and laptops. Few of us could imagine walking in Barbara's shoes as she dealt with deaths of Lake County citizens and comforted families as she changed their lives with the news she delivered of untimely deaths of loved ones. The audience was in awe of her personal strength and empathy serving the public for 26 years with professionalism and respect for life, death and survivors. Yet, Barbara considers herself the Luckiest Woman in Lake County! Thank you Barbara!!

*(Rick Bott and his program BARNES IN LAKE COUNTY will be rescheduled.)*

Diana Dretske, Collections Coordinator, Lake County Discovery Museum, made a return visit to Lake Villa for the program in April, "Preserving Family Heirlooms". Many in the audience claimed to "fail" the basic aspects of preserving heirlooms. Cardboard shoeboxes are a big No-No for storing photographs, as the cheap cardboard is acidic. Photos then absorb the off gases and acidity. Attics and basements are the worst places to store family heirlooms. They are too hot, too cold, too damp, etc. The ideal spots in the home for photos or textiles would be under the bed or in a closet on an inside wall away from light, maximum temperature of 65 degrees and 50% humidity. While most plastic storage boxes are not suitable for long term storage, Diana did contact Sterilite and had the following response to our question. **\*\* Sterilite products are made of polypropylene plastic which is a food and**

**archive safe material. "Sterilite products are safe for archiving papers, fabrics, photographs or other keepsakes. Our clear (see-thru) storage products are acid-free and photo-safe." Do not use Sterilite products for storing negatives (glass plate, nitrate, or acetate-based).** Thank you Diana!!

Sue Cribb, President

## Welcome New Members:

Marsha Cairo, Lake Villa; Dan Slazes, Lehigh Acres, FL; Judy Filipowicz, Lake Villa; Mike & Bonnie Wolff, Grayslake

## Recent Donations:

Karen Curtis-Corona portable typewriter, 1903, that belonged to her mother, Olive Martin;

Jessie Lyons- Lake Villa P.T.A. Cook Book, Issued 1957;

Allene Nelson-one deck of Kem pinochle cards;

Elaine Teltz-two vintage bars of soap "American Family" and one bar "Fels-Naptha" laundry soap; "Loyal American" Pencil Case with pen holder and nib; 1895 copy of "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser In Plain English" by R.V. Pierce, M.D. 34<sup>th</sup> edition, 1008 pages;

Nan Thorson-miniature vase, *Souvenir of "THE FAIR" The Store That Saves You Money;*

Ainsley Wonderling-one playing card with photo of The Fair Store.

## LEHMANN MANSION ORNAMENTS FOR SALE!!

Start your collection now. A limited number of wooden, winter scene, Lehmann Mansion ornaments are for sale. The boxed ornaments were made by Grayslake artist, Rose Grant, and are available for \$15.00 each. Ornaments are available

at the Lake Villa Village Hall or at 113 Cedar Avenue.



Photo of Mansion Ornament

## HISTORY ON THE TABLE

The following recipes are from the Lake Villa P.T.A. Cook Book, Issued 1957

### ***Veal and Noodle Platter***

*Submitted by Mrs. Philip Wagner*

1 pkg. wide noodles	1/2 c. flour
1-2 c. sliced onions	2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. butter	1/4 tsp. pepper
1 1/2 lb. ground veal	1 can tomatoes

Boil noodles in salted water until tender; drain. Fry onions for 5 minutes in butter; add veal and cook for 5 minutes longer. Add flour, pepper and salt; blend. Add tomatoes, cooking until mixture thickens, stirring frequently. Simmer for 15 minutes longer, stirring occasionally.

### ***The Man's Salad***

*Submitted by The Committee*

2 slices stale bread	lettuce
1 tsp. butter	garlic salad dressing

Cube bread and fry quickly in butter; drain on paper. Tear lettuce into chunks; toss with dressing; add crisp croutons and toss again. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.



## **Getting To Know Your LVHS Board Members:**

Alice Brownlee  
Vice President

Alice was born in Waukegan and resided there for nine years before moving to Wadsworth. She attended Immaculate Conception

Grade School except for a brief period when she attended Townline Grade School in Wadsworth (a one room school). Her freshman and sophomore years were spent at Holy Child High School in Waukegan and then she transferred to Warren Township High School for her junior and senior years.

After her brother was drafted into the army, Alice, at the ripe old age of twelve, took on the responsibilities of operating the family studio, Shea's Baton and Dance Studio in Waukegan. Her duties included parades, recitals, entertaining at various functions throughout the county along with involvement in competitive events until Gene's safe return, from Korea in the early 50's.

Alice was introduced to Lake Villa through three young ladies who were students of baton twirling. Norma Blumenschein, Pat Dibble and Linda Ladewig, were part of the Waukegan based traveling baton corps/drill team in the late 50's and brought about an interest to the local teens of Lake Villa to generate an All Girls Drill Team sponsored by the V.F.W. Post #4308. Not long after the formation of the Lake Villa Kadettes, under the leadership of Alice, they made their mark in the field of drill team competitions with V.F.W. State Championship titles. Not only were these young ladies good at maneuvering on the drill field in competition they were also good at match-making. Some of the parents and young ladies in the group insisted that Alice meet someone by the name of "Butch Brownlee" and forty nine years and five months later is the rest of the story.

Alice moved to Lake Villa in 1960 as Mrs. Warren "Butch" Brownlee and became involved in many local activities. Her husband "Butch" served on the Lake Villa Fire department for 25 years (grandfather, Joe Koelstra was an original member of the Fire Department). Alice became an automatic volunteer for fire department functions and also the ladies water-fight team.

She was employed at Antioch High School for seven years in the Attendance and Guidance Offices – drove bus for Shea's Transit (her father's bus company). Alice taught baton twirling through Park Districts – Waukegan, Gurnee, Zion, Mundelein, Round Lake, Antioch, Lindenhurst and Great Lakes. She took up oil painting and tole painting as a hobby that led to another profession - participating in craft shows and gift store consignments. As a volunteer Alice has directed the Miss Lake Villa Pageant from 1985 through 2010. She also acted as the chaperone for the Miss Lake County Fair Queen of

the Lake County Fair Pageant in 1987 and as the Director from 2000 to present. Alice began working at the Village Hall in Lake Villa in 1992 as a receptionist and water/sewer clerk. In 1993 she ran for Village Clerk and still holds that position.

### A PAGE FROM THE PAST:

#### Ladies Aid Society of the Lake Villa Methodist Church

By Marilyn Hamlin Jeffries



*The mission of the Lake Villa Historical Society is to collect and preserve documents and artifacts that reflect the richness of Lake Villa's history. Items collected are then accessioned on Thursdays afternoons. Allene Nelson and I had some spare time, so I glanced through old books of records we are storing for the Lake Villa United Methodist Church. One book seemed to be exceptionally worn with no title. It turned out to be handwritten by the secretaries and some treasurers who reported from the Ladies Aid Society meetings. Skimming through it, I found many old names of our town as Kerr, Webb, Potter, Allen, Sherwood, Barnstable, Cribb, Snyder, Kingsley, Nelson, Atwell and Hamlin. My curiosity was piqued; Cora Hamlin was my Grandmother! Now I had to know more, and how she was involved with this group of ladies! This is a fascinating part of her history that I knew nothing about. The following is what I have learned.*

The first recorded notes of the Ladies Aid Society were dated Oct. 5, 1892, when they re-organized this group. All entries in the 118 year old book were by various elected secretaries and treasurers until Oct. 2, 1907 recorded on 168 handwritten pages. The second book we found was a formatted book entitled "OFFICIAL RECORD FOR THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY" copyrighted in 1911. It holds the records from Oct. 1, 1941 to April 19, 1944. It mentioned some war related issues such as using ration coupons to buy sugar for their dinners.

The objective of this nurturing group of women was "To work for whatever seems to need our help most." Membership was 25 cents, and 10 cents per meeting even when not present. The Tea Table rule consisted of tea or coffee, or both and no more than 5 different "articles" of food, and fined 25 cents for the first offence and 50 cents the second. Meetings were to be held the first Wednesday of the month at various members' homes. Some meetings during the 1940's were held twice a month, according to the second book.

My Grandmother was elected Secretary and Treasurer in a few of the years, and had worked on various committees that were organized in order to

earn money for The Centennial Church. It was named Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake Villa after it moved north to the hill on Route 83 and Cedar Avenue. It seems that any money that the women of the Church earned was used for the upkeep and new furnishings needed. From treasurers' reports I found out that they paid the salaries of the "circuit riders" or ministers, for the Church and later parsonage. They bought a pulpit and chair, a Chalice set, wall paper, paint, cabinets, kitchen utensils, roofing, furnace, even new carpeting (the women made rugs to sell from the old carpeting). In the minutes of 1905, a motion was made and passed to have a "N.E. Supper" in the new basement on Sept. 14. (Was this a New England Style supper, and what type of food was it?) I inferred that the basement was built by my Grandfather, Charles Hamlin and Brothers, since the bill was paid to Charles Hamlin in installments of \$10 or more depending on the money in the treasury. Motions were made and passed as bills were presented from such places as Kerr's Hardware, and J.G. Rowlings. The ladies bought a piano from "The League" by paying \$10 down and \$2.50 a month for the remainder of the year -- from the minutes of Feb. 6, 1902. They were also known for sending money to the Lake Bluff Orphanage and I imagine other charitable organizations.

Where did all this money come from? The first money collected came through dues of Members and "Visitors", as they were listed in the minutes of the Society's records of these two books. Some names appear twice, in the Members lists and the Visitors lists, so I don't quite understand the delineation. They held bazaars, bake sales, ice cream socials, and many NE Suppers, (*does anyone know what NE means?*) Mother/Daughter, Father/Son Banquets, seasonal suppers too, including Christmas -- one even mentioned the Allendale children.

They sold many handmade articles at the local stores, in booths at their own functions and others. I found that their handicrafts included handkerchiefs, aprons, rugs, quilts, and many other items. They ordered cookbooks and Christmas cards as fundraisers for many years. In general they were a very resourceful group of ladies, who held the backbone of the Church together in so many ways.

My Grandmother and other relatives, and of course, other dedicated women of Lake Villa worked selflessly and wholeheartedly to make their Church an integral part of their lives. They worked in the beginnings of Lake Villa and through the ages, and hopefully from here on, to help those who need our help even into the future. I'm proud of my

Grandmother, and all the women of the Ladies Aid Society for their fine examples of how we can all work together for the best of causes. I will treasure this information that I learned about my Grandmother Cora Hamlin, of her part of making history, and my part of preserving the history of the people who made a home in Lake Villa.

### Calendar of Coming Events:

Membership meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month (except July) at the Lake Villa Village Hall, 65 Cedar Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Business meetings begin at 6:30p.m. and programs follow at 7:00p.m. Both are open to the public. Refreshments are served.



Train Station  
1919

Photo of original Lake Villa Train Station 1919

**May 4, 2010**-MEET AT THE TRAIN STATION to hear Dave Leider present "Railroad History of Lake Villa". Mr. Leider will also have copies of his most recent book, *History of Wisconsin Central Railways in Illinois* for sale.

Lake Villa Historical Society  
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**June 1, 2010**-Katie Wall, Operations Director, Hastings Lake YMCA will present the History of Hastings Lake YMCA.

**July, 2010-NO MEETING**

**August 3, 2010**- Daytime Walking Tour-Church of the Holy Family - We will meet at the Church of the Holy Family (*Property originally owned by Otto Lehmann, home of Chesney Farms*) on Route 59 just south of Route 132. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. to be followed by tour at 12:30 p.m. The cost for this meeting is \$10 which includes lunch. Advanced reservations are required. Please make your reservation by paying \$10 to Alice Brownlee by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**September 7, 2010**- Barns in Lake County presented by Rick Bott. Mr. Bott contributed to the book "Barns in Lake County" which was published in 2003. Formerly of Lake Villa, he now resides in Wisconsin.

**September 18-19, 2010** – Civil War Days at the Lehmann Mansion