

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

July 1975

"There are but three cemeteries of importance in the town, two at West Sand Lake and one at Sliter's Corners. The most ancient of the three is situated about a mile south of the village of West Sand Lake. It has been in use for a great many years, and is still well preserved and cared for. Beneath its sod lie the remains of many of the oldest residents of the western part of the town. The Lutheran Cemetery at West Sand Lake village has also been in use from an early day, and contains a number of stones which antedate the present cemetery. It is located in the rear of the Zion Lutheran Church, is in good condition, and is frequently used for interments."

Above is an excerpt from Nathaniel Sylvester's History of Rensselaer County, 1880

Reprints of the section of Sylvester's pertaining to the Town of Sand Lake are available for \$1.00 each. They may be obtained through various members of the Society or at Gifford's IGA or through Madolyn Carpenter (674-3147).

A letter has been received from William J. Murphy, County Executive, congratulating the Sand Lake Historical Society for our publication of the reprint. Mr. Murphy kindly requested a copy which has been forwarded to him.

Town Historian Madolyn Carpenter and members of the community have begun a Cemetery Census. They have started with the cemetery in Sand Lake and will move on to Saint Henry's, the two in West Sand Lake, those on the mountain and other small ones. Much help is needed to complete this project. Please contact Madolyn Carpenter, 674-3147, if you are interested.

SAND LAKE - AN OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

Road signs will be installed at the five major entrances to town designating our community as a Bicentennial Community. On September 13<sup>th</sup> there will be an official presentation of the Bicentennial flag and scroll to the Town of Sand Lake. Ned Pattison and Neil Kelleher will participate in the presentation.

A mural is being painted at Surprenant's Drug Store by Daniel Sekellick. It is hoped that other murals will be done throughout the town. If you are interested, please contact Bicentennial Chairmen Bonnie Romer and Roger Young.

A 1975-76 Community Calendar is now in the vestibule of the Town Hall where community organizations can enter their events. The Town Hall is open 9-12 noon Monday through Saturday.

Bicentennial Decals are available for 25¢ and should be displayed so everyone will know our new status. They are available at the Town Hall or through Doris Gallant, Madolyn Carpenter, Bonnie Romer or Roger Young.

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Our new officers for the year 1975-1976 are:

President - Robert Harris  
Vice-President - Joan Fuess  
Corresponding Secretary - Kathy Fasco  
Recording Secretary - Glenn Snyder  
Treasurer - Shirley Rescott  
Custodian - George (Bob) Dunworth

Trustees (tenure)  
Louis Leitgeb (3)  
Robert Lilly (3)  
Bernadette Bresnahan (2)  
Judy Rowe (2)  
Douglas Kelley (1)

Chairmen (appointed by President)  
Bicentennial - Jim Miller  
Oral History - Nancy Kelley and Joan Fuess  
Publicity - Sanford Young  
Ways and Means - Madolyn Carpenter

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#### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

I didn't join the Sand Lake Historical Society because I thought that the community needed another organization to create jobs for those inclined towards administration. Rather, I joined the Society because I had a vague sense that I'd like to somehow participate in its goals of promoting the history and culture of the Town. Now I find myself in a second term as President without having anything but administrate.

Perhaps when I joined I expected I would be swept up in history projects. But that hasn't happened. And I don't particularly relish even the low-key politics of being President. So, what's the solution? Quit?

Nope. I'm aware now that the Sand Lake Historical Society is not much more than a vehicle for the needs of its members. If those should add up to just a pleasant monthly social, then so be it. Or perhaps the sum of our needs is to have the satisfaction of providing audiences for relatively more activist speakers. OK, too. But I suspect that many of our members, like me, want to do something.

For my part, I'm going to compile a history of the post offices in the town. That's something in which I'm interested and which I think that the Society ought to do. I've already gotten all I can from written record and so my next step is to get into the field to take pictures and compile an oral record. Then I can gather it together for a program or a chapter in a more permanent record of our town that our Society most certainly must do.

I'm pleased now with the Sand Lake Historical Society. And the moral is that I AM the Sand Lake Historical Society. So are YOU.

Does the Sand Lake Historical Society satisfy? It can, you know.

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A gift has been received from Mr. Craig Kingsbury of thirteen volumes of the County Supervisors' Journals between the years 1879-1894. They will be maintained by our Custodian for reference.

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#### ORAL HISTORY

Members of the Committee have compiled lists of persons to be interviewed and topics to be covered. These oral histories may be collected by tape or notes. If you are interested in gathering histories, contact Nancy Kelley (674-3517) and start this summer.

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FLAGS - FLAGS - FLAGS

The Ways and Means Committee have announced that the Sand Lake Historical Society will be ordering period flags. It is hoped that every home in our community will fly a flag. Historic homes could fly the flag appropriate to the date they were built or fly your favorite flag - the Bicentennial Flag, the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag to name just a few. Watch your newspaper for details. The new Ways and Means Committee consists of Madolyn Carpenter, Beryl Vannier, Joyce French and Doris Gallant.

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Are you missing a wooden bowl? You were kind enough to donate cookies in the Fall for our reception but left the bowl. Please contact Joan Fuess.

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RENEW YOUR DUES NOW!!

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July Executive meeting will be at the home of the Treasurer, Shirley Rescott.

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PROGRAMS

July 14<sup>th</sup> - Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shaw will present a slide-tape program entitled "Sicily is....". It will cover the history, art, culture and architecture of Sicily. This show was first presented to the Italian Consulate in New York as part of the Sicilian Fair Celebration. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have traveled in Europe and are past presidents of two of Long Island's prestigious camera clubs.

August 11<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. Glenn Ferguson and Mrs. Myra Wehnau will present "The Art of Quilting".

Mrs. Ferguson is a life long resident of North Greenbush and a descendent of the VanDenburg family, one of the early settlers in Greenbush. The average age of the quilts she will display is 125 years.

Mrs. Wehnau is a life long resident of Sand Lake and a descendent of the Holdridge family who settled in West Sand Lake before the Civil War. She will demonstrate present day quilting in addition to displaying quilts.

September 8<sup>th</sup> - Bob Shuey will present a dramatization on "Life of the Civil War Soldier". Mr. Shuey of Averill Park has been a Civil War buff since age 14. He was a drummer in The North-South Skirmish Association.