



Historical Highlights

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 492 • WEST SAND LAKE, NEW YORK 12196

MARCH 10, 1987 -- 8:00 PM -- SAND LAKE TOWN HALL

A THIRD-GENERATION BELL-MAKER, EDWARD W. KEHN, WILL PRESENT A VISUAL PROGRAM ABOUT THE MENEELY BELL COMPANY OF TROY, WHERE HE WAS A PLANT ENGINEER. THE MENEELY BELLS ARE VERY WELL-KNOWN NATIONALLY AND ARE IN MANY OF OUR LOCAL CHURCHES. MR. KEHN EARNED A DEGREE AS A METALLURGICAL ENGINEER FROM RPI. PRESENTLY HE RESIDES IN WYNANTSKILL, AND HAS RECENTLY PRESENTED THIS PROGRAM FOR THE GREENBUSH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 14: THE TROY AND NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY COMPANY (1895-1925) -- THEN AND NOW.

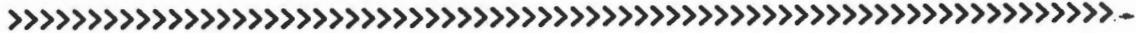
A SLIDE PROGRAM BY CHARLES L. BALLARD, PROFESSOR OF TRANSPORTATION AT HVCC.

MAY 12: ANNUAL MEETING AT SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN WEST SAND LAKE, WITH JOHN MILLER, NATIONAL RANGER FROM LINDENWALD, AS SPEAKER.

JUNE 12: SAND LAKE'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST: HOUSE TOUR

BOTH OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS WERE INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE. THE LARGE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES INDICATES THE INTEREST IN JANUARY'S DISCUSSION OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BY JOHN KACHARIAN AND FEBRUARY'S PRESENTATION OF THE GLACIAL HISTORY AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE TOWN OF SAND LAKE BY ROBERT LAFLEUR.



OUR AUGUST PARTICIPATION IN THE TOWN'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WILL BE A HOUSE TOUR. THE MIXTURE OF AGES AND STYLES WILL RANGE FROM THE 1700S TO NEW SOLAR HOMES. THIS BROAD SPAN SHOWING 175 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN OUR TOWN IS NOW IN THE PLANNING STAGE. THE COMMITTEE, CATHY CATALANO, ALAN FEUSS, ARTHEA GIBBS, ADA MILLER, AND LINDA SHEEHAN, WILL MEET MARCH 24 TO CONTINUE THIS PROJECT. PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR HOME AS PART OF THE TOUR AND/OR YOUR ENERGY IN PROVIDING SUGGESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. CALL ADA MILLER, 674-3739, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

AS A DIVERSION IN THE MIDST OF COPING WITH EVERYDAY WINTER PROBLEMS OR JUST A REFLECTION WHILE ENJOYING A COZY FIRESIDE ON A WINTER EVENING I OFFER THIS EPISODE OF HISTORIC MEMORABILIA.

I AM SURE EVERYONE RECALLS THE BIG THUNDER CELEBRATION OF LAST JULY 4TH AT HOAGS CORNERS. SINCE SAND LAKE PLAYED A VITAL PART IN THAT SEGMENT OF HISTORY, APPROPRIATELY THE DAY'S EVENTS OPENED WITH AN EXERCISE AT THE GRAVESITE OF DR. BOUGHTON IN THE SAND LAKE CEMETERY. BECAUSE ONLY A FEW WERE PRESENT, AND IN THE SPIRIT OF PRESERVING CURRENT EVENTS FOR POSTERITY, I WANT TO SHARE WITH ALL AND PERMANENTLY RECORD THE PERTINENT REMARKS DELIVERED THAT DAY BY KENNETH L. BROCK. THE FOLLOWING IS HIS TEXT IN ITS ENTIRETY.

"TODAY IN THE RURAL HILL TOWNS OF RENSSELAER COUNTY, INDEPENDENCE DAY IS CELEBRATED NOT ONLY TO COMMEMORATE OUR 210 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE BUT ALSO THE INITIATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE STRANGLEHOLD OF PATROON SYSTEM SERVITUDE. THERE IS NO MORE FITTING LOCATION FOR BEGINNING OUR CELEBRATION THAN AT THE GRAVESITE OF DR. SMITH BOUGHTON.

AFTER YEARS OF LAND IMPROVEMENT, LOCAL FARMERS, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PATROON STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, WERE BEING EVICTED FROM THEIR HOMES.

IT WAS A MATTER OF RENT COLLECTION OR FORECLOSURE OF LEASES BY VAN RENSSELAER FAMILY HEIRS. THUS WAS BORN THE ANTI-RENT MOVEMENT. ALTHOUGH DISGUISED FROM HIS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, THE LEADER, KNOWN AS 'BIG THUNDER,' WAS DR. SMITH BOUGHTON. HIS HOME WAS JUST UP THE ROAD IN THE HAMLET OF THE ALPS, AND HIS CHIEF ASSISTANTS, FRANK ABBOTT, KNOWN AS 'LITTLE THUNDER,' AND THOMAS THOMPSON, CALLED 'TUSCARORA,' LIVED AT HOAGS CORNERS. TOGETHER THEY ORGANIZED LOCAL FARMERS AND MERCHANTS TO RESIST EFFORTS OF THE VAN RENSSELAERS WHO BY COURT ORDER WERE USING THE COUNTY SHERIFF AND HIS POSSE TO FORCE PAYMENT OR EVICTION. 'BIG THUNDER' PROVIDED LEADERSHIP FOR THIS POPULIST CAUSE HERE AND AS FAR AWAY AS ALBANY, SCHOHARIE, AND DELAWARE COUNTIES.

IT WAS 68 YEARS AFTER AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE WAS PROCLAIMED THAT THOSE LIVING ON SURROUNDING FARMS SOUGHT THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM PERPETUAL LEASEHOLDS, DEMANDING REDRESS OF THEIR PLIGHT BY THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE. REPRESENTING THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO JOIN WITH HISTORIC HOAGS CORNERS ASSOCIATION IN PLACING THIS WREATH ON THE GRAVE OF DR. SMITH BOUGHTON, 'BIG THUNDER' OF THE ANTI-RENT MOVEMENT. NEIGHBOR, FRIEND, AND CHAMPION OF THE OPPRESSED OF HIS TIME."

This Newsletter is published by the Sand Lake Historical Society. The Society was granted an absolute charter by the Regents of the State of New York on November 15, 1979.

President - Kitty Mace

Vice-President - Arthea Gibbs

Editor - Barbara Mohan

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NEWS OF MEMBERS

MADOLYN CARPENTER IS AT HOME RECUPERATING FROM RECENT SURGERY.

TERRY TOKRYMAN IS SERVING ON THE TOWN'S LIBRARY COMMITTEE AS IT SEEKS A LOCATION FOR THE AUGUST OPENING.

JOHN KACHARIAN WAS SPEAKER AT A RECENT BLUE AND GOLD CUB SCOUT DINNER; HIS TOPIC - THE AMERICAN FLAG.

AS ANNOUNCED AT THE SOCIETY'S FEBRUARY 11 MEETING, RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE WILL BE RESTORING SOME OF ITS BUILDINGS WHICH ARE OF HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND IS SEEKING INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY. ANYONE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MAY CALL KITTY MACE (674-5035) OR COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE COLLEGE:

MS. MARGARET C. NISH
 COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH INFORMATION
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
 RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE
 45 FERRY STREET
 TROY, NY 12180
 PHONE: 518/270-2390

IRONWEED FILMING INVOLVES US

BILL KENNEDY'S NOVEL, IRONWEED, IS NOW BEING FILMED IN ALBANY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA. IN ADDITION TO SAND LAKE'S PRIDE IN ITS HOMETOWN AUTHOR AND SCREENPLAY WRITER, WE ARE HAPPY TO NOTE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER NEIGHBORS.

DONALD CARPENTIER, OWNER OF EASTFIELD VILLAGE, IS HISTORIC DESIGN CONSULTANT FOR THE FILM AND HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE STAFF IN LOCATING AND DESIGNING MATERIALS TO PROVIDE THE PROPER HISTORIC ACCURACY.

BERYL VANNIER, WSL ANTIQUES DEALER, HAS PROVIDED MANY PERIOD OBJECTS FOR USE IN THE FILM. SOME OF THESE PROBABLY BELONGED TO ALBANY FAMILIES MANY YEARS AGO.

J. EDWARD VIGEANT HAS PREPARED ALL OF THE SIGNS. AUTHOR BILL AND DANA (MR & MRS) KENNEDY WILL APPEAR IN NONSPEAKING PARTS.

THE WEST SAND LAKE FIRE CO. CONTINUES ITS RESTORATION OF 'OLD JOE'. THE SOCIETY HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION. PLEASE HELP THEM WITH THIS HISTORICAL PROJECT.

ARE YOU A COLLECTOR??? BUTTONS, TOOLS, GLASS, BARBED WIRE, STAMPS, HATS, TOYS, STUFFED ANIMALS,?????????
 WILL YOU SHARE YOUR INTEREST WITH US? CALL ARTHEA GIBBS AT 674-3127 TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS.

SOME INTERESTING DATES IN MARCH

MARCH 2, 1820 - THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE ACT WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT WASHINGTON. ITS REPEAL IN 1854 WAS ONE OF THE PRIME CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR. DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR HISTORY? MISSOURI, AS A NEW STATE, WOULD BE PERMITTED TO HAVE SLAVERY; MAINE'S ADMISSION TO THE UNION WOULD NOT BE RELATED TO SLAVERY IN MISSOURI; HENRY CLAY WAS THE DOMINATING PERSONALITY IN ACHIEVING THE COMPROMISE; SLAVERY WAS A NATION-WIDE ISSUE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

MARCH 9, 1862 - THE BATTLE OF THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC - THE IRON-CLAD WARSHIP MERRIMAC WAS A CONFEDERATE NAVAL MONSTER AND THE MERRIMAC WAS CALLED A 'CHEESEBOX ON A RAFT'. THE CIRCULAR TURRET OF THE MERRIMAC WAS TURNED BY ENGINES AND HAD TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL GUNS OF THE TIME. TWENTY SHOTS LEFT INDENTATIONS IN THE MERRIMAC'S ARMOR, BUT NO SHOT PIERCED HER SIDE. HOWEVER, THE ARMOR BEGAN TO LEAK AND IT RETIRED FOR REPAIRS. ONLY A FEW INJURIES AND NO DEATHS RESULTED, BUT THIS WAS A GREAT MORAL VICTORY FOR THE NORTH.

MARCH 16, 1802 - WESTPOINT MILITARY ACADEMY ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS.

MARCH 31, 1918 - EASTER SUNDAY AT 2 AM ALL CLOCKS IN THE NATION WERE TURNED AHEAD ONE HOUR TO "SAVE DAYLIGHT" AND THUS CONSERVE FUEL FOR LIGHTING.

1986-1987 MEMBERSHIP

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS COUPON, WITH YOUR CHECK, TO:
 SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 492
 WEST SAND LAKE, NY 12196

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ CHECK ENC. \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE YOUR SPECIAL INTERESTS, HOBBIES, COLLECTIONS, ETC.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: \$4.00 PER PERSON, \$6.00 PER FAMILY
 HALF-PRICE FOR JUNIORS (TO 16) AND SENIORS (65 AND OVER)
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 MEMBERSHIP CARDS WILL BE MAILED.

ELINOR ZAKI WILL ANSWER YOUR MEMBERSHIP QUESTION (674-2005)

COMING EVENTS!!!!

MARCH 10 - PROGRAM ON MENEELY BELLS

APRIL 14 - PROGRAM ON TROY AND NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY

MAY 12 - ANNUAL MEETING AT SALEM UNITED METHODIST

JUNE 12 - SAND LAKE IS 175 YEARS OF AGE

AUGUST - HOUSE TOUR

WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU AND A FRIEND!!!!!!



**SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 492
WEST SAND LAKE, NY 12196**

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Dated Material...Open at Once