

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOX 492 WEST SAND LAKE, N.Y. 12196

October, 1992

Volunteers Appointed

Can you assist them?

Hospitality

Pat Detmar

Membership

Barbara J. Worcester

Publicity

Arthea Gibbs

Memorial Gifts

Arthea Gibbs

Library Coordinator

Rosemary Supkis

Oral History

Diane Freeman

Constitution Review

Eleanor Zaki

Rosemary Supkis

'Mig' Cipperly

Newsletter

Barbara Mohan

Diane Freeman

Marge Larsen

Iona Mosher

Rosemary Supkis

Volunteers Wanted

Acquisition Review Committee To establish guidelines to
control any acquisitions

Speakers Bureau

To talk or demonstrate history or early crafts for area groups. We would list your expertise and have each individual make appointments of your choice. A wonderful chance for education of our purpose and public exposure.

This Newsletter is published by the Sand Lake Historical Society. The Society was granted an ABSOLUTE CHARTER by teh Regents of the State of New York on Novemer 15, 1979. President - Ross French Editor - Barbara Mohan - 283-1067

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Our summer is now history!
Did you record your accomplishments? Have you thought
about some project we might
want to consider? We need
input from the membership to
assist the officers and
committees to move forward.
Work and dreams continue as we
ask "How do we increase our
budget?" Are we known as a
'working' society? How can we
preserve and protect our
heritage?

Presently we still solicit oral history, but need volunteers. Consideration is being given toward a future 'home' and possible exhibit space. Communication with the Town Library is alive and well as we seek to contribute toward emphasis on local events of our past. The newest suggestion is to establish a speakers bureau of local persons who might use their expertise to educate others by speaking before youth groups, senior groups and/or community groups. This could become a public relations/publicity component of our society.

The Society is seeking an item of real value to be raffled in the Spring. Please call Ross French 674-5710 for details.

FAMOUS PERSON HAD SAND LAKE CONNECTIONS

In October of 1800, a young man made his appearance in the Town of Sand Lake, with his clothes tied up in a cotton handkerchief and over his back, and his boots hung over his arm. He first inquired for a school, and then a place to work. He was directed to a certain "farm on the mountain", where he chopped wood mornings and nights to pay for his board while he persued his first employment as schoolmaster in the neighborhood. The young man gave his name as "Patches" Marcy.

Mr. William L. Marcy attended Brown University, and then came to Troy to study law with two prominent lawyers. Following admission to the bar he practiced law in Troy, and became surrogate of the county. During the War of 1812 he volunteered and served for two years. After the war he became the first recorder of Troy and then managed the anti-Federalist newspaper, The Troy Budget.

From 1821 to 1830 he held three important State offices, Adjutant General, Comptroller, and Judge of the Supreme Court. While serving a term as United States Senator, he became Governor of the State of New York, holding this office for three terms.

In 1845 he became Secretary of War, and then Secretary of State in President Pierce's cabinet. Mr. Marcy was the leading candidate for the presidential nomination in 1852, but he was not successful because New York State did not remain solid in his support.

Sand Lake honored Mr. Marcy by designating a road in his name. Marcy Avenue is located approximately 1500 feet west of the Church of the Covenant, off Route 43, bordering Firemen's Pond.

The information on "Patches" Marcy prompted some research by the editorial staff. It was found that Marcy Avenue was the western boundary of Interlaken Park, a subdivision proposed by Averill. plans included a beautiful park, and country homes for the affluent. Why was it never built? At present (1992) there is only one house on Marcy Avenue and it is relatively new. Near the intersection of Marcy and Prospect Avenue is an old house that was the summer home of the Cunning family. A son

of early movie actress Mae

Murray was adopted by Dr. Cort

Cunning of New York City, but raised by the Troy Cunnings, who operated a shoe store there. This boy, John, later coninued the shoe store operation. John's father was Prince Midvani.

WE THANK ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS RESEARCH: MADOLYN CARPENTER, JOHN KACHARIAN, MARGE LARSEN, MARY O'DONNELL, AND ROSEMARY SUPKIS.

A display of Crooked Lake memorabilia is planned for future. Do you have any item(s) or photo(s) to lot a special memory to share A display of Crooked Lake memorabilia is planned for the item(s) or photo(s) to loan or a special memory to share?

SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION FOR MUTUAL PROTECTION AGAINST HORSE THIEVES

This association, one of the few remaining organizations of its kind in New York State, was formed in 1848 to aid owners in recovering stolen horses and apprehending horse thieves. Its members will ride out in search of a horse at the call of President George Tashjian Jr. of West Sand Lake.

The association was essential to townspeople who relied heavily on their horses. In the early 19th century, there was no public transportation, no steam engines, electric trolley cars or gasoline engines. People traveled on foot, horseback, or by horsedrawn vehicles. The horse pulled, hauled, plowed, and fertilized.

Residents throughout southern Rensselaer County called on the association for help in recovering their animals. According to the by-laws of the group, members who had a horse stolen selected six riders, and the president chose six more to ride "not more than 75 miles from the village of West Sand Lake; nor shall he go in such pursuit more than five days."

However, if a rider found a track of the stolen horse or thief, he could ride at most ten days. Selected riders who went with the horse, wagon and harness were paid \$3 per day by the association, and a rider without a horse and wagon was paid \$1 per day.

If a horse was not recovered, the owner was reimbursed two-thirds of the animal's cost.

Although the need for its services has dwindled in recent years, the association has remained active, its members ready to ride out in search of a horse, or horses, if the president calls them. Just a few years ago, riders searched for and recovered a horse which had been stolen from Sand Lake.

The association is interested in receiving new members. The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers is usually held on the Sunday before Election Day, at a noontime buffet. For information contact Mary Pat Hart at P.O. Box 214, West Sand Lake, NY 12196, or call her at 283-A. GIBBS

WEST SAND LAKE GRANGE #273

Recently Joan Zweig contributed some old records, ribbons and awards to the Sand Lake Historical These items record the Society. activities of the West Sand Lake Grange. The Grange is a national organization dedicated to promote agriculture, animal husbandry, and the general welfare of the farming community. The West Sand Lake Lodge was established in 1903 and is still active today. At one time there were many lodges in Rensselaer County. Today the West Sand Lake Grange and one in Center Brunswick are the only two remaining in the county.

For many years meetings were held in the Grange Hall in West Sand Lake, a large 3-story frame building in back of Bonded Originally this building Concrete. was the "CEDERHURST", a well-known

hotel and boarding house.

Among the many items were three school-type notebooks. belonged to the Juvenile Grange, an auxiliary of the Senior Grange, and was established in 1933 for the teenage boys and girls. One of these notebooks contains a list of charter members and the other, the minutes of the meetings. Glancing through the list, you will find many names of people that still live in the community.

Anyone interested in the past history of the Grange can review this material at the office of Town Historian Madolyn Carpenter.

R. Lilly

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Ms. Barbara Urban, Social Studies teacher at Doyle Middle School, will present a program on the WPA and CCC in Rensselaer County at the November 10 meeting. She has had a great interest in this topic because her family members were involved.

Ms. Urban wants to contact other Rensselaer County residents who have first hand knowledge of either organization. She will be working with the Gateway to uncover more information.

Our December Meeting will be with Poestenkill at the Christmas-decorated home of Cornelius Slingerlands in Feura Bush. To car pool or request a ride, call Barbara J. Worcester, 674-8127.

At the October regular meeting of the Sand Lake Historical Society, in observance of Columbus Day, Richard Carman, retired Social Studies Supervisor in Troy, presented an interesting program on Exploration 1400-1500.

Some suggestions for further reading in the Sand Lake Town Library:

The European Discovery of America - The Northern Voyages by Samuel Eliot Morison

The European Discovery of
America - The Southern Voyages
by Samuel Eliot Morison

Cartier Sails the St. Lawrence retold by Esther Averill

Men, Ships, and Seas by Villier

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Wesley & Ada Miller Clearview Road RR 1 Box 11 Averill Park NY 12018

