



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 26, Number 3

Spring 2000

Annual Dinner and Program

Mark your calendar! Tuesday, May 16, 2000, is the date of our annual dinner meeting at Lakeview Inn on Crystal Lake, Route 43, Averill Park Center. Make your reservations today and come and enjoy good fellowship and an excellent program. Cocktail hour (cash bar) beginning at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is \$20.00.

Lindenwald National Historic Site, Home of Martin Van Buren



The story of Lindenwald, the home of President Martin Van Buren and now a National Historic Site, located on Route 9H in Kinderhook, New York, will be the subject of this interesting talk.

Dues for the 2000-2001 membership year — June 1 to May 31 — are due. Membership is \$5 per person.



Forms for both dinner reservations and for membership renewal are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sand Lake Historical Society — 25 Years

June 27, 1975 is the date the Sand Lake Historical Society was granted its Provisional Charter by the New York State Education Department. So it is fitting to celebrate our 25th anniversary this year. Looking back to those days, we discover that the seeds of the organization planted in late 1973 or early 1974 resulted in a meeting of interested individuals at the Crooked Lake Hotel on June 4, 1974. At that meeting, the Sand Lake Historical Society completed its formal organization process with the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers.

Robert D. Harris, the first President, presented the goals of the organization: "The development of an appreciation for the preservation of materials relating to the history and structure of the Town of Sand Lake. A variety of techniques including publications, surveys, exhibits, publicity and displays will be utilized to achieve our goals."

Other officers were Beryl Vannier, Vice President; Shirley Rescott, Treasurer; Joan Fuess, Recording Secretary; Nancy Kelley, Corresponding Secretary; George Dunworth, Custodian of Records; and Bernadette Bresnahan, Louis Leitgeb and Judy Rowe Trustees.

Celebration of the granting of the Provisional Charter was held October 24, 1975, at the Stage Coach Inn at Glass Lake with Barney Fowler, a well-known columnist for the *Times Union*, as guest speaker. Honorary life memberships were given to Sanford Young, Charles Viens and Jane Van Praag for the meritorious service each of these persons gave in the society's behalf.

Our nation's Bicentennial celebration gave impetus to several initiatives for the Society:

- A grant from the Kiwanis Club enabled the Society to reprint the Sand Lake portion of Sylvester's 1880 History of Rensselaer County.
- Many members of the Society participated in the cemetery census under the

direction of Madolyn Carpenter, Town Historian.

- A Bicentennial calendar for the last months of 1975 and 1976 featuring the Town's hotels, mills and churches was very popular.
- The 1977 calendar saluted the Town's Bicentennial Commission activities.

Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial Quilt



"Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future" became the society's motto and, together with the glassblower, became part of the Society's logo. On November 15, 1979, the Sand Lake Historical Society was granted an absolute charter by the New York State Board of Regents.

Other ambitious endeavors are noteworthy:

- *Facts and Artifacts*, which became *Historical Highlights*, has been our ongoing publication of events and researched articles.
- Nancy Kelley and Joan Fuess were co-chairs of the first Oral History Committee.
- A number of tours of various homes and buildings of the town and accompanying tour booklets became a great historical record of the places visited. The tours started in 1976, skipped a year and then were held annually from 1978 to 1983, and again in 1987 and 1990.
- Pieces of Glass Lake glass were made available from an archeological dig sponsored by the society and the 200 Club. The proceeds from the sale of the glass were donated to the Sand Lake Ambulance.
- In 1979, the Sanford G. Young Memorial Fund made *Sand Lake History*, a publication of the houses, businesses, churches, schools and events, a reality. Editors were Madolyn Carpenter and Charles Viens.
- The Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Scholarships were given for the first time in 1979, in memory of Sanford Young, to a girl and boy in the graduating class at Averill Park High School excelling in history. Each year since these awards have memorialized deceased members of the Society.
- The Town Library houses the Society's collection of historical volumes relative to the Town of Sand Lake and surrounding areas.
- In 1988, the Society offered plaques and flags to identify homes that were 50 years or older as historical sites.
- In 1997, through the Al Goodwin Memorial Fund, awards were presented to elementary school students who submitted essays on "Preserving the Past"
- When the opportunity arose to obtain 15 volumes of old town records circa 1813 - 1914 the remainder of the Al Goodwin

Memorial Fund assisted in their purchase for the Town.

- Fundraisers over the years to continue informative and historically relevant projects have included tailgate sales, raffles, dinners and sale of publications. Bob Lilly has done in-depth research of topics, which have provided memorable programs.

On March 12, 1991, Faith Mills Day was so designated by the Town Board with the Society hosting a Faith Mills Night program and the reunion of many persons who had worked in the mill. (The Faith Mill, founded in 1897, operated until 1962 and was particularly famous for the woolen underwear used during World War II.)

The development of the Town of Sand Lake with the inclusion of the town supervisors and honoring those in attendance occurred at the June 1994 meeting. Another targeted program was research on the schools presented in 1995.

History happens with every passing hour. Our challenge is to claim anew our motto of "Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future." We welcome new members and new ideas for projects and programs. Join us on the second Tuesday of the month for membership meetings and programs! — *Mary French*

Local History Collection

Did you know that the Sand Lake Historical Society sponsors a local history collection in the Sand Lake Town Library? This collection dates back to the early days of the Society before the beginning of the Town Library. Much of the early work was due to the efforts of Shirley Rescott, Myra Wehnau, Barbara Mohan and Rose Mary Supkiss. Many hours of work were spent cataloging the books and pamphlets and arranging the shelves.

When the plans were being made to move the Library from the 43 Mall to the new Town Offices, John Kacharian reviewed our holdings. He removed many items that were not related to local history. These books

were offered to the Town Library and the Rensselaer County Historical Society. The remaining items were offered for sale at book sales. As a result we now have a collection that is specifically related to the history of the Town of Sand Lake. In addition there are books and pamphlets relating to the history of surrounding Towns and Cities of Troy and Albany.

Edna Pierce, Ada Miller and Bob Lilly have arranged the shelves and labeled sections for easy reference.

Have questions about the Anti-Rent Wars in Rensselaer County? Glass making at Glass House Lake? Early days of Ulinesville? Find the answers in the Local History section. Also there are pictures of historic homes and hotels in the calendar and house tour collection. So you are invited to come visit the Town Library and spend some time at the Local History reference collection.

Images of America — Sand Lake

The Sand Lake Historical Society is sponsoring the publication of a picture book with more than 200 illustrations of Sand Lake. This book will be published by the Arcadia publishing Company. Mary French and Bob Lilly are in the process of collecting pictures that will tell the story of the Town of Sand Lake from its earliest days to the present. Pictures are from our own files, the Town Historian's Collection and individual personal collections. Historic homes, churches, mills, farms, etc., will tell the story of our past.

It is requested of all readers of this notice that they search through their photo collections for pictures of the past and offer them for this project. All pictures will be photographed and the returned. If you have such material, please contact Mary French at 674-5710 or Bob Lilly at 674-3430.

Sand Lake Historical Society Board of Trustees 1999-2000

**vacant (2002)
President**

**Linda Ormsby (2001)
Co-Vice President
674-3624**

**E. Berenice Danks (2001)
Co-Vice President
674-5030**

**Marion Hacker (2002)
Corresponding Secretary
674-3191**

**Ross French (2001)
Recording Secretary
674-5710**

**Nancy Davis (2002)
Treasurer
674-2742**

**John Allendorph (2000)
283-4838**

**Joan Fuess (2001)
674-2154**

Arthea Gibbs (2002)

John Kacharian (2002)

**Marge Larsen (2000)
674-3209**

**Iona Mosher (2002)
674-3686**

**Michelle Sprague (2001)
674-2795**

New SLHS Web site

The Sand Lake Historical Society has a new home on the Internet/World Wide Web. The new site features information on the Society, a membership application, and feature articles from past issues of *Historical Highlights*. There is even a "dedicated" e-mail address. The site may be found at <http://members.aol.com/SandLakeHistory/>; the e-mail address is <SandLakeHistory@aol.com>.

**Sand Lake Historical Society
2000 Annual Dinner**

Tuesday May, 16 2000

at

**Lakeview Inn on Crystal Lake
Route 43
Averill Park**

Cocktail hour (cash bar)
6:00p.m.

Dinner
6:30 p.m.

Program on
Lindenwals, home of Martin Van Buren

Reservations by May 13
please call

Bea Danks
674-5030

Linda Ormsby
6743624

ot please detach and return this with your check payable to "Sand Lake Historical Society"

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

_____ Dinner reservations x \$20 = \$ _____

I am enclosing dues for 2000-2001 x \$5 = \$ _____

I Cannot attend the dinner but am enclosing dues for 2000-2001 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Sand Lake Historical Society
1999 Annual Dinner

Twenty Sixth St. 2000

Landscape Inn on Crystal Lake
State St
Sand Lake, NY

Crystal Lake (cont'd)
12196

Phone
518-738-1234

Program on
Landscape Inn of Sand Lake

Reservations for 2000

FORWARDING/ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Sand Lake Historical Society
Post Office Box 492
West Sand Lake, New York 12196



Historical Highlights
Bob Lilly, Editor
Andrew Mace, Publisher