



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

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Note from the President

New young members, successful programs, great attendance! Sand Lake Historical Society is alive and thriving! The hard work of those few who choose to recreate memories of the past have provided a "life-line" for the survival of the organization. While going forward we cherish the legacy of friends no longer with us. The times we have shared will not be forgotten!

During the coming year we are planning to publish a book on the "History of Sand Lake." We hope to schedule some weekend day programs. One such trip would be on Saturday, December 2nd, to attend a candlelight tour of Lindenwald, home of President Martin Van Buren. The program committee welcomes suggestions regarding future possibilities.

My personal thanks for the interest, support, and encouragement of a capable Board of Trustees. We're off to a promising 2000-2001! — Bea Danks, President

Officers and Directors 2000-2001

Berenice Danks, President (2001)
John Allendorph, Vice President (2003)
Ross French, Recording Secretary (2001)
Marion Hacker, Corresponding Secretary (2002)
Mary French, Publicity (2003)
Barbara Mohan, Treasurer/Membership (2003)
Linda Ormsby (2001)
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Nancy Davis (2002)
John Kacharian (2002)
Michael St. Germain (2003)

Images of America — Sand Lake

Bob Lilly and I have been very appreciative of the generous input we have had from so many persons and groups within the community for the Society's proposed book, *Images of America — Sand Lake*. Our decision to defer signing a contract with Arcadia until we could see our way clear to meet a deadline was a good one. It gave us breathing room, which has made this project enjoyable and has allowed us to contact persons and to follow up on leads, which would not have been possible otherwise. It has also given us space to **have a life**. So we thank you for your patience and continued support.

Arcadia Publishing is eager to have us meet a deadline this year. We are committed to having the pictures and captions submitted by December 15, 2000. You can keep digging and giving us your good input until our final cut-off date of September 15. It's just amazing how often a conversation has led to a real find.

We are excited about the great *images* we have available to tell the story of Sand Lake. Are there any more out there? — *Mary French (and Bob Lilly, too)*

September Membership Meeting

Wayne Trimm & Melodee James

September 12, 2000

Who's going to be at our September membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, at the **Old Town Hall, Route 43, Sand Lake?**

In addition to *Yooooou* there will be at least three of the four species of owls that Wayne Trimm and Melodee James have in their collection and bring with them when presenting a program.

Melodee James is director of Outdoor World for Learning (O.W.L.) and has taught outdoor/environmental education since 1975. Wayne Trimm, an internationally known wildlife artist, serves as vice president of the Society of Animal Artists. Together they will present birds of prey:

hawks, owls and more, and how pesticides in our environment have affected raptors as pesticides have moved throughout the food chain. They will also cover Natural History and Owl Lore.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting. See *Yooooou* **September 12, 7:00 p.m., at the Old Town Hall!**

Membership in the Society

Dues for membership in the Town of Sand Lake Historical Society are a mere \$5 per person per year. The year extends from June through May. Dues play a central part in keeping our Society solvent. If by chance you have overlooked the dues notice of last June, we request that you bring your membership up to date. Look at the upper corner of the mailing label. If you see the code "00-01" you are up-to-date. Any other code shows the last time you paid your dues. Please renew your membership by completing the form elsewhere in this newsletter and mailing it in today.

SLHS Web site

Just a reminder that the Society has a new home on the Internet, featuring information on the Society, a membership application, feature articles from past issues of *Historical Highlights*, and even a "dedicated" e-mail address. The site: <<http://members.aol.com/SandLakeHistory/>>; e-mail <SandLakeHistory@aol.com>. More updates and enhancements are planned for this fall. — *Andrew Mace*

Kudos to AP&SL VFD

Congratulations to the Averill Park-Sand Lake Volunteer Fire Department on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their formation on August 11, and for 100 years of outstanding service to the community! (See *Historical Highlights*, v 23, n3, 1997.)



John Schumann
Sand Lake Supervisor
1902-1905

In 1997, the Sand Lake Historical Society completed a study on the supervisors of the Town of Sand Lake. The resulting paper contained a short biographical sketch of the 58 supervisors who served the Town from 1813 until 1997.

At that time, an investigation into the life of John H. Schumann Jr., Supervisor during the years 1902-05, was fruitless. Finally, after much searching, an obituary was found in the *Troy Times* of January 16, 1923. This information was used and the piece ended up with the statement "We believe this to be our past Supervisor."

How wrong can you be? The information we needed turned out to be in our own back yard! In October of last year, a phone call was received from Ada Miller. "You've got the wrong man! We called him Uncle John. If you want more information call Ernie Hoffman." Well, Ernie remembered visiting Uncle John in West Sand Lake and referred us to his daughter Amie Barber, who lived in Clifton Park. Amie was doing a genealogy and came up with the information that John Schumann was born in 1856, married Mary Durr and died in 1952. He had a brother Henry in Poestenkill who ran a mill there.

The search was on! Florence Hill, past Town Historian of Poestenkill, had written a book of the 35 Supervisors of Poestenkill. There we found a Schumann but it was an Albert Schumann, not Henry. But his father was a Henry. No connection, but an interesting story.

Albert Schumann was born in Taborton in 1875 to Henrietta and Henry Schumann. In the early 1920s, Albert moved to Poestenkill and bought John Holser's grist mill. He kept busy grinding grain sawing limber and harvesting ice from the mill pond. He was an active Republican, held

many Town offices, and finally was elected Town Supervisor and served two terms 1938 till 1941.

What a find! Could it be our Sand Lake Supervisor was related to a Poestenkill Supervisor? Our Towns have always been closely related. The Town of Sand Lake in the past had two Supervisors who also were Supervisors of the Town of Poestenkill.

In the search it was learned that John Schumann was a volunteer fireman. A call to Michele Sprague, historian for the West Sand Lake Fire Company, confirmed this. She had a large amount of information that she willingly shared with us.

The search was not over until John Allendorph finally found an story of the death of John Schumann on the front page of the August 23, 1951, issue of the *Times Record*. So we now have a revised biography to replace our incorrect one printed in 1997. (NOTE: if you find any errors or have additional information please let us know.)

John Schumann (1856 - 1952)
Supervisor 1902-06

John Schumann was born in the Town of Berlin on January 9, 1856, to John and Elizabeth Schumann. In his early years he moved with his family to West Sand Lake. John and became interested in the formation of a voluntary fire company and became a charter member with the formation of the West Sand Lake Fire Company. He became a Fire Commissioner of the Company in 1883 and held that position until 1911.

He was also active in many other Sand Lake activities, including the Sand Lake Association for the Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves [See Historical Highlights, v25, n1, 1998] and was a member of the Interlochen Lodge I.O.O.F. of Averill Park.

John Schumann was an active worker in the Rensselaer County Republican

Committee all his life. In the Town of Sand lake he served as assessor for many years and Supervisor 1902-06.

Mr. Schumann was a highway engineer for the State of New York for more than 30 years, retiring in 1931. He was also a vice president of the Rensselaer County Insurance Company.

John Schumann married Mary Durr. They had one daughter, Maude Schumann Wallace. After his wife died in 1940 he lived with his daughter in West Sand Lake. Coincidentally, this house was one of several torn down in the 1970s to make room for the new West Sand Lake Fire House.

Local History

The Society's collection of books and pamphlets, located in the Town of Sand Lake Library, is in a bit of disorder. The reason? We are attempting to put some of the books on the library's electronic catalogue. This will make it easier to locate material that a person is researching. In order to do this, these books have been removed from the collection so that they can be barcoded and tagged. This process

has been taken longer than anticipated. So we ask that those using our collection be patient. The collection on local history will be returned to good order as soon as possible.

We are looking for volunteers to help in cataloging our collection. If interested, please call Bob Lilly at 674-3430.

History Awards

At the end of each school year, the Sand Lake Historical Society presents Excellence in History awards to two graduating seniors of the Averill Park High School. The awards are given in memory of deceased members of the Society for past distinguished service. This year's winners are John Henchey and Diane Leith. We wish them well in their continuing studies. The awards were given in memory of Marjorie Larsen and Irving H. Edwards.

Michael St. Germain, one of our younger members, received the Technology Education award, presented by the Poestenkill Kiwanis. Congratulations, Michael!

Please detach and return this with your check payable to "Sand Lake Historical Society."

**Sand Lake Historical Society
2000-2001 Membership**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

I am enclosing dues for 2000-2001 renewal / new membership (circle one) @ \$5.00

Mail to:

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