



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 27, Number 3

Spring 2001

Annual Dinner: May 8, 2001

The Sand Lake Historical Society's Annual Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at the Arlington House, Route 43, West Sand Lake. A cash bar begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please include your choice of entrée and make your reservations early, as the seating will be limited to 50 persons. A reservation form can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

It is certainly appropriate that our annual dinner should be held in the newly renovated Arlington House. The old Journey's End Hotel was probably built around 1880. During its long existence it was also known as the Elk Horn Hotel, the Arlington Hotel and Journey's End. The latter name probably stemmed from the fact that it was a stop for the Troy-New England Railway Company. The trolley tracks once ran close to what was then the rear door of the Hotel. The front door of the Hotel was on old Route 43 (now Werger Road). Today, Route 43 runs where the old trolley tracks did. When the new road was put through in the 1930s, the former rear door of the old "Arlington Hotel" became the front door of old "Journey's End Hotel" and today's Arlington House.

We all should be thankful to Edward J. Murray for preserving this historical building that is part of the history of the Town of Sand Lake.

NOTE: preordered copies of *Images of America: Sand Lake* will be available at the dinner!

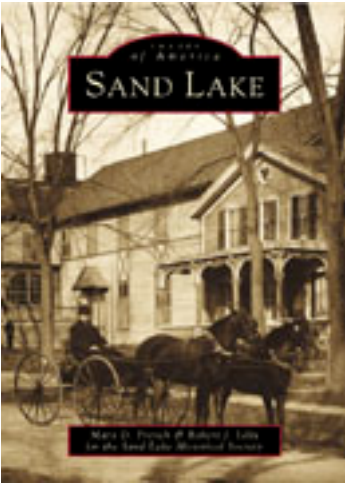
From the President

The new millennium stretches before us with exciting promises of changes that would have astounded our parents and grandparents. The preceding century holds memories of a life that may become unfathomable to future generations. We have shared and contributed to these remembrances of the 20th Century, and we approach the next 100 years certain that the past is fast slipping away.

The Sand Lake Historical Society decided to publish a permanent record of life the way it was. A year of hard work has resulted in the publication of *Images of America: Sand Lake*. Public enthusiasm and support have been overwhelming. We were able to increase our original order by over 30%. We conclude this year with a significant increase in membership, new board members, a healthy financial statement and plans for an exciting future.

Thank you all for the great pleasure and experience of being your President and Vice President for the past year. We welcome those who will take over for 2001-2002 and wish them the best. — *Bea Danks, President; and John Allendorph, Vice President*

Images of America: Sand Lake update



Images of America: Sand Lake met its December 15 deadline. A special thank-you goes to Barbara Mohan, who was a super proofreader and even brought her printer to the unofficial editorial office at the French's home to facilitate printing the final copy. Thank you, Barbara!

Next, a great Marketing and Sales Committee of Linda Ormsby, Joan Fuess, John Allendorph, Marion Hacker, Bea Danks and *ex officio* Mary and Ross French and Bob Lilly planned the strategy for pre-sales of the book:

- ✓ A thank-you letter and invitation to the Preview Slide Show was sent to over 140 persons who assisted with loan of photos, leads, oral history and encouragement.
- ✓ We received pictorial coverage and fine publicity in both *The Record* and the *Time Union Rensselaer Edition*.
- ✓ In spite of an iffy evening weather-wise, 186 persons came to the Preview Slide Show on March 13th at Algonquin Middle School. A thank-you goes to Kevin Smith of Miller's Supermarket for the contribution of cookies for our refreshments. Pianist Irving Sewell played the *Crooked Lake Waltz*, written in 1885, and brought it back to life again. Sixty books were sold, and 15 persons became members of the Society.
- ✓ Churches were sent a bulletin/newsletter insert, and their response was gratifying.
- ✓ Local organizations responded to the opportunity to have a representative of the Society come to their meeting. Presentations have been made to the Troy Area Retired Teachers' Association, the Sand Lake Senior Citizens, the Sand Lake Ambulance and the West Sand Lake and Miller Hill-Sand Lake PTA's.
- ✓ The Sand Lake Kiwanis had a slide program on the book on March 26th. We wish to thank them for the great job of highlighting the program on their web site:

<<http://sandlakekiwanis.home.att.net>>.

Wow!! There were pictures of Ross and Mary French as well as pictures and text of the slides shown on the screen. They came out great.

- ✓ Our own Society web site <<http://members.aol.com.sandlakehistory/>> has all the information about the Society as well as *Images of America: Sand Lake* ordering information.
- ✓ A slide program was given at the Friends of the Sand Lake Town Library Brunch on April 22nd.

The Society has ordered 1000 copies to sell, and we've sold over 550 books already. The sale of these books nets a fine profit for the Society. Do we have *your* order? All of the pre-sold books will be autographed by Mary French and Bob Lilly.

Presale orders of the book may be picked up at the Old Town Hall, 2880 Route 43 in Sand Lake, on Saturday, May12, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who has purchased a book or is interested in purchasing a book. Copies will also be for sale that day. For questions about the pick-up time please call 283-1067.

We're sure the book will remind persons of pictures they have. The project the Society began to photograph pictures for their archives is still ongoing. Let Ross French know what you have. We'd love to have a permanent record of them.

It is with sadness that we received word of the death of Coulman Westcott on Thursday, February 1, 2001. Coulman was editor of Historical Highlights 1994-95.

Early Telephone

In selecting pictures for *Images of America: Sand Lake*, we came across many scenes and subjects that made us wonder just what things were like at the turn of the last century. One picture was the testing of the dial telephone; modern technology comes to Sand Lake! How times change, with computers, e-mail, cable TV and more. But now look in the other direction. The following resolution was passed by the Town Board in 1908:

WHEREAS: John M. O'Donnell as president of the Crystal Lake Home Telephone, and William H. McGann as treasurer of said Company, of Troy N. Y., have made application for the privilege of maintaining and operating a telephone system in the Township of Sand Lake, N. Y. and said application having been duly considered,

Now therefore: be it resolved that John M. O'Donnell and William H. McGann, their heirs and assigns are hereby granted permission to erect, construct, equip, maintain and operate a line or lines of electric Telephone and telegraph wires, Cables and appurtenances in, over and under the several streets, avenues, alleys, highways and public places in the Township of Sand Lake, N. Y., subject to the following conditions.

The wires, cables, poles and appurtenances shall be of good quality, and erected, constructed and maintained in a good workmanlike manner

The village and town shall have the right to string, fasten and maintain its wires and cables, for the use of its fire and police service, upon and to any and all poles free of cost and expense and shall have free access to such poles for the purposes of maintaining such wires: The Village and Town offices and members of the Fire Department shall have the right to use any telephone in relation to the business affairs of the Village or Town or the Fire Department free of cost, but subject however to the consent of the subscriber or such telephone that may be used,

Dated April 22, 1908; Signed by Wm A Eches, Samuel B. McNary, John Martin, A.L. Ferguson and Albert Hikmer.

Albert Fox House on State Register

We have received notification from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation that the Albert Fox House has been listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The nomination has been forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, DC, for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the only property in the Town of Sand Lake to be included on the historic registry.

German Families History Project

A group of citizens of German ancestry have been meeting to document the Sand Lake German History. This will be a valuable addition to Town History. Their last meeting was April 17, 2001. Anyone interested in joining this study project should call Judy Rowe at 674-5388.

An Inquiry for Mohican Information

To all Historians and people with a passion for history: I am an elementary school teacher working with the Native American Institute of Columbia-Greene Community College on a Mohican curriculum. As you are aware, the Hudson River Valley was the original homeland of the Mohican People. Most school history books do not recognize the history or contributions of this Algonquian Tribe but focus only on the Iroquois Nation.

The Mohicans left no written word or oral histories when they left this area and moved to Stockbridge, MA. I need your help to find sources of information, legends and lore. Any mention of this tribe in a book, article or photograph will help put the missing pieces of the puzzle together. If in your reading or filing you come across the name Mohican, Mahican, Stockbridgers, Stockbridge-Munsee or even Mohegan (in NYS), please pass this information on to me.

You may write or e-mail me at: Mariann Mantzouris, 2640 Route 43, Averill Park NY 12018; <marimantz@aol.com>. Any contribution from you will be greatly appreciated! Thank you so much.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for trustees: Lynn Patanian, Lee Barnum, Ross French, Joan Fuess, and Berenice Danks. — *Barbara Mohan & Berenice Danks, Nominating Committee.*

Dues

Membership dues for the Society run from June 1, 2001 - May 31, 2002. The cost of membership is \$5.00 per person or \$8.00 per family. Dues can be paid with your dinner reservation.

How many can YOU remember?

- Blackjack chewing gum
- Wax, Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
- Candy cigarettes
- Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
- Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
- Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
- Party lines
- Newsreels before the movies
- P.F. Flyers
- Butch Wax
- Telephone numbers with a word "prefix" (Olive-6933) [or perhaps Oregon 4-5030? — Ed.]
- Peashooters
- Howdy Doody
- 45 RPM records
- S&H Green Stamps
- Hi-fi's



keys

- Cork popguns
- Drive-ins
- Studebakers
- Wash tub wringers

If you remembered:

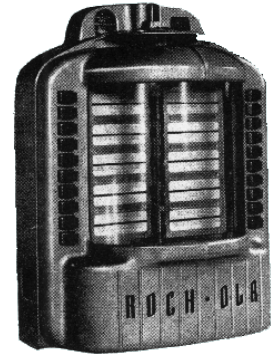
0-5 = you're still young

6-10 = you're getting older

11-15 = don't tell your age

16-25 = you're older than dirt —

as printed in The Poest Script, Spring 2001, Poestenkill Historical Society [also making its way around the Internet — Ed..]



Don't forget our home on the Internet:

<<http://members.aol.com/SandLakeHistory/>>; e-mail <SandLakeHistory@aol.com> — Andrew Mace



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

Sand Lake Historical Society

Dinner Reservation/2001-2002 Membership

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

I am enclosing dues for 2001-2002 renewal / new membership (circle one) @ \$5.00 /family \$8.00

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

Dinner — choice of:

- Grilled salmon with mashed potatoes (indicate # _____ @ \$20.00)
- Grilled chicken with mashed potatoes (indicate # _____ @ \$20.00)
- Vegetarian platter with angel hair pasta (indicate # _____ @ \$20.00)
-

Total Enclosed (dinner + dues): \$ _____

**Please reserve by *May 3, 2001*. Reservations are limited to 50 persons, so call early.
Contact Bea Danks (674-5030) or Barbara Mohan (283-1067) to make your reservations.**

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