

Historical Highlights

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Next Membership Meeting

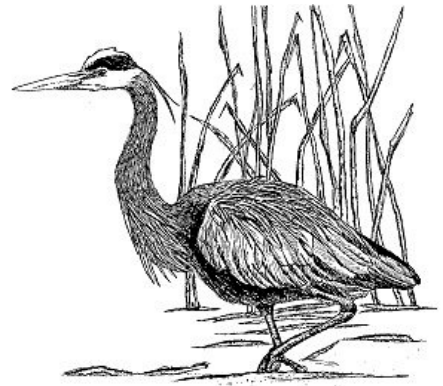
William Gorman of East Greenbush will present a program on wading birds at 7:30 p.m. at the Sand Lake Baptist Church, Route 43, Sand Lake on **Tuesday, September 10, 2002**. Refreshments will be available.

Mr. Gorman's movie presentation will highlight the 30 wading bird species, 25 of these have been found in New York State. Many of these beautiful birds were shot to the edge of extinction for their feathers near the end of the 19th century

While many of these large colorful birds can be found with reasonable effort, their marshy and swampy environment makes them difficult to approach and observe.

Join Bill as he shows these spectacular birds in action in their natural habitats. William (Bill) Gorman is a long time birder. He has gone birding in North and South America, the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe.

He has seen over 840 species of birds in the United States. He has bird-related publications in *Birding*, *Winging It* and *Bird Waters Digest*. Bill is a member of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and the American Birding Association. He also conducted breeding bird surveys for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Bill likes to chase rare birds and to take wildlife movies.



[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/line art of a great blue heron by Timothy Knepp]

2002 SLHS Scholarships

Each year the Sand Lake Historical Society grants awards to two Averill Park High School seniors who excel in history. This year's recipients were Jeremy Flanagan and Erin Grogan.

In addition to our awards, Jeremy was in the six Top Academic Students with a Regents Diploma with Honors and received the National Honor Society 2002 award. He will attend Furman University in South Carolina. Jeremy is the son of Mark Flanagan and Pam Fleming.

Erin Grogan was a member of the National Honor Society and will attend State University at Oneonta. She is the daughter of Stephen E. and Donna Grogan.

150-Year Celebration

Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton

Church services were held in the log meetinghouse every two weeks beginning in 1852. An acre of land on which the meetinghouse was located was deeded to the trustees in 1865 with the stipulation that it be used for the sole purpose of the Evangelical Protestant Meetinghouse.



Extensive renovations were made in 1882, and the parsonage was dedicated in 1883. Services were in German until 1917 when they began in English. Zion's Church Cemetery is located on the hill behind the church.

Two other churches were served in the later years of



their existence by Taborton pastors. In the summer, services were conducted one week at the Dutch Settlement Church in West Berlin and on the alternate week at the North Road Church in East Poestenkill.

Services in North Road were discontinued after Rev. Oscar Egli's death. An epilogue in the Poestenkill Historical Society book, *The Dutch Settlement Church, West Berlin, New York*, notes services were still conducted there in August 1979. The Dutch Church was destroyed by arsonist fire in 1967. A replica of the former church was rebuilt and it again suffered a similar fate in 1982.

The Taborton Picnic, which began with a parade of the Sunday school children, is now known as Taborton Festivities. Over the years it has continued to be a traditional homecoming event for many to renew their Taborton roots.

Zion's Church Hall was erected in 1921 for Sunday school and church activities. Square dances were held on the second floor. Turkey suppers continue to draw crowds and are noted for their good home cooking and homemade pies.

Plans are well under way for the Church's 150th anniversary celebration. A Memory Book is being compiled and will be available on Saturday, September 14th, the day of the Anniversary Festivities. On Sunday, a special worship service will be held with Rev. Geoffrey Black, NYS Conference Minister, preaching.

A quilt has been put together and will be on display the day of the celebration and then hung in the sanctuary. It is a sampler quilt of Biblical blocks and blocks with pictures of the church and pavilion depicting how the buildings have changed through the years. There is also one block with the Lord's Prayer in German in honor of the church's German heritage.



Another initiative is a Meditation Garden with annuals and perennials for blooms during the entire growing season and a walkway with engraved stone blocks given in honor and/or memory of loved ones.

Congratulations to a church that was begun as a mission church to German settlers in America. The mission of your church family has now grown to include a wide extended family of service to your Lord.

Photos: *upper left* -- an early picture of the church, courtesy Gordon "Gunny" Gundrum; *upper right* – the church as it appears today (SLHS collection); *lower left* – Zion's Church Hall (SLHS collection).

Historical Happenings

Are you as excited as I am by all the historical happenings in the Town within the past few months?

We now have a second Historical sign. The only one in the town for many years located in front of Trinity Lutheran Church now has a companion. The Uline family has made a sign available near the Elmwood Cemetery for their patriarch, Bernhard Ulein (note different spellings). We soon should have a third one when the Glass Lake/Glass Factory sign is erected by our Society.

The turret of the Monitor has been raised from its resting place on the ocean floor since 1862. Water from our town lakes feeding into the Wynantskill provided power for making the rolled iron envelope cover for the hull of the ship and the rivets for the turrets. Did you know we have a plaque which states: portion of armor manufactured 1861 by the Albany Iron Works (located on the Wynantskill) for the warship Monitor. Presented to the Sand Lake Historical Society October 11, 1983, by Ellis C. Ripple, President Wynantskill Improvement Association? The Society gave it to the Town Historian's office to display. Let's have a closer look at it now, the next time you are in the Historian's office.

The Circle Theatre Players are forging ahead on the reuse of the First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake a.k.a. "Old Town Hall" for the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. [See *Historical Highlights*, vol. 28, no. 1, Spring 2002] We applaud their efforts to bring this project to fruition. Our collective efforts of time, talents and financial backing are needed. How will your contribution be counted in?

The Veterans Memorial Park has had its groundbreaking ceremony. Having all the memorials for our veterans in this setting can give visitors the opportunity to remember the sacrifices made in our behalf in the outstanding park design which has been proposed. Here's another worthy project for us to rally behind.

On August 3rd we were treated to a triple celebration at the Town's Municipal Center. The State Police Facility and expansion of the Town Hall were dedicated and the Library had a birthday party for being 15 years old. It's a pleasure to see so many pictures and artifacts depicting places and events in Sand Lake's history prominently displayed throughout the Town Hall. We have a mini-museum right here.

In September Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton will be celebrating their 150th anniversary. [See article on opposite page.] So go ahead. Pop your buttons!! We can all be justifiably proud of our town. -- *Mary French, President*

A Boy's Recollections

I remember growing up around the Faith Mills much of my childhood years. I remember being baby sat at the boarding House which was owned by the mill and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Face, parents of Pittsburgh pitcher Elroy Face. It was quite a place, and every room was rented by mill workmen in the 1940s.

The house we lived in was owned by the mill. The mill owned many houses and if you worked at the mill the rent was quite cheap; it would taken out of your pay each week.

My Dad fired the boilers and was watchman for 40 years. He would let us play in the mill as long as we did not touch any machines. We would hide on each other on or behind the bales of cotton and run though the mill.

Growing up we would fish and hunt frogs and turtles in the mill pond. We would catch turtles and give them to Mr. Aron Dibble. He would make soup and paint the shells for us to keep.

There was a pipe between the two mills that they would blow cotton though. It would leak from time to time, and the cotton would blow in the air and land in the pond. It made good nesting for the frog and turtles and snakes. We would swim in the creek just below the mill; sometimes the water was pink or blue depending on what color underwear they were dyeing that day.

We wore the thermal knit under wear each winter, and it would sure keep us warm. I tried the wool once but it itched for days after.

Many nights when the weather got real cold. We had some blankets made from overcoat material they used during the war. and it sure did its job.

What I remember most was the warm, kind and caring people that worked there at the mill. All working hard and all raising their families, not by big salaries but everyone got by.

My first job out of school was at the mill. The mill gave me many fun days as a child and taught me a lot about people and a lot about life. To me the mill will live forever. -- *By E. Richard Castle*



Tally-Ho!

[Editor's note: While researching a future piece for the *Historical Highlights*, I came across two newspaper clippings that I thought interesting enough to reprint. So come for a coach ride from Albany to Troy to Sand Lake! – Bob Lilly]

Troy Times, June 7, 1880

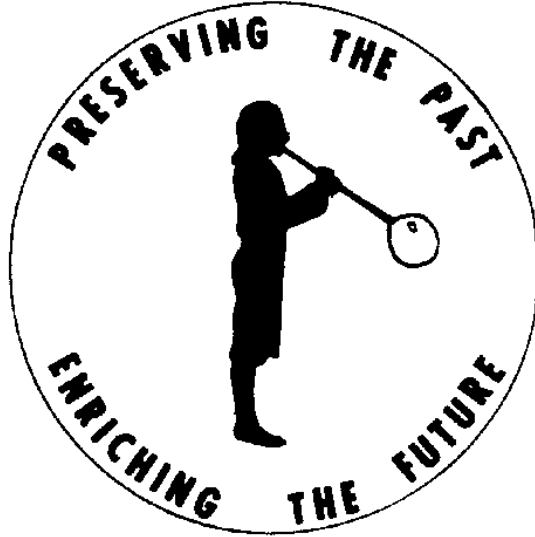
A "Tally-ho" coach made by Peters & Sons of London, England, reached Troy this morning. It is the property of J.K. Averill, who intends to run it between this city and Sandlake. This is the only Veritable "Tally-ho" in the state outside of the metropolis, and consequently it attracted attention as it stood in front of DeFreest's Livery stable on Third street this morning. The running gear is painted a bright red and the body a deep black, while the decorations consist of heraldic devices on the door panels, together with the Latin inscription virtus et constantia. The upholstering is rich and in good taste, the hampers and wine cellar are of ample proportions, and, in fact everything about the conveyance is marked by strength, simplicity and completeness.

Albany Morning Express, August 21, 1880

A Ride on the Tally-ho Coach -- the Luxury of a new Sensation

To the Editor of the Albany Morning Express: I have enjoyed a ride on the "tally-ho coach from Albany to Sand Lake. In the years gone I have ridden the elephant, camel, mule, horses, and well remember peculiar experiences in connection with the same. But it remained for a partial friend, who; thought I would enjoy it, to invite me ;to join him on the tally-ho and ride from here to Troy and so; to Sand Lake. I said yes and am glad I did so and feel to say to your readers, "Go thou and do likewise." In my journeys in England it never fell to my lot to get a ride on a tally-ho because railways were provided on all the routes I was called to travel even so far back at 1851. So to ride on a genuine English stage coach brought from London - did give me a new and pleasant sensation. The program is this: The coach leaves the Kenmore Hotel at 7 o'clock A.M. and the Delevan House at 7:10 -ten minutes later. All told it will carry 20 persons., chiefly on the outside unless it should be raining. Now we start; Gabriel blows his horn and away we go, as fast as four good horses can trot away with the heavy coach weighing 2500 pounds. High up you are and the trees must be dodged when Gabriel shouts "low bridge". The Troy Road , as a rule, is dusty and I suggest to take the drive after a rain. Arrived at Troy the local point of this enterprise, more passengers are taken on, and after a brief stay we are off for Sand Lake, 10 miles a way, over an excellent road. Passing through the villages of Albia and Wynantskill. In two hours we reach Averill Park Hotel, well located for convenience and comfort but a little way from a pretty little lake where boats may be found and fish more or

less abound. I found the host to be my long time friend Mr. Dorlon, who, in the years gone, kept the Mansion House in Troy and was also connected with the line of stages running from Troy to Albany. .A courteous gentleman is Mr. Dorlon, well bred and cordial in the reception of guests. To make this trip thoroughly enjoyable , make up a party, throw care to the dogs, resolve to be jolly young again, and let the proprietors take care of themselves and not permit the eyes of other .people to interfere with your enjoyment of all that is lawful and innocent, so shall you have a day of pleasure -- all too short as it glides away on "slippery feet". We, Boswell and I (Johnson) had the coach all to ourselves from Albany to Troy, but we did not feel lonesome. Gabriel, with his horn, saluted everything, even a funeral procession on the way to our cemetery, so intent is he to make people jolly and happy. No such word as dead in Gabriel memorandum book. Only "Schedule time" is on his mind. And that must be kept, I see that I have not made mention of our stop at Troy and what happened to us. We were in clover; seats so comfortable, but alas! a pleasant speaking man by name Knowlson, the druggist of Troy, who seems to have the say and from whose store the coach starts, said gentlemen, and he meant us all the time he was speaking. I am sorry to say you must vacate the seats you occupy and permit these ladies to take them; they engaged them here. Passengers from Albany? Well, hereafter we will see to it that from Albany seats may be secured for the trip through to Sandlake.. Bosworth "looked daggers" at the party who ousted us and said to the agent, "I suppose I must conform to your request and change my base, but this I will insist on. I will not ride with my back to the horses, as it causes me to feel "seasick" and some prominent member of our family have died from this cause in the ages gone". Well, we took our seats, and scrutinized the party who had caused this great commotion. Four persons, every one of them a blessing in disguise; ladies truly so, each and all of them. We enjoyed their good company all the while, going and coming, and at the hotel. The intelligent old lady, Mrs. B--; the sprightly maiden lady, Miss ---, who told us stories in the Dutch and Irish dialect in a way worthy our remembering; Miss--- who played "chop sticks" on the piano, and Miss Nellie -- what shall I say of her? Only this; would that she had the right to call me father, with her great eyes flashing out love for me, that I feel sure will gladden some other favored one. As we journeyed the time passed quickly, filled with songs and stories and "Gabriel's Horn" " The Sweet By and By" " Hold the Fort", " The Girl I Left behind Me", the hearty laugh and pleasant smile of "Gabriel", the pleasant drive who knows all about driving four horses; could manage eight, I believe-- all is in ours memory to abide " while memory holds her seat." Yes, we spent a day of delight, and hope to repeat it ere long. Albany, Aug. 20, 1880. Delph



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Sand Lake Historical Society

It might be time to renew your membership! The date on your *Historical Highlights* address label is your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1 – May 31. **01-02** indicates your membership should be renewed. If it reads **02-03** you are paid up till May 31, 2003.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$5 per individual _____ \$8 per family _____

Total enclosed:

Make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*

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