



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 31, Number 1

Fall 2004

## From the new President

Entering the term with hopes for continued excellence in programs, growth of interest in our historically rich area and increased appreciation of those who willingly share remembrances, in my role as president I am encouraging participation in planning and inviting you to join the celebration of our heritage.

Our Self-guided Tour on July 24th reminded me of tours of years past. The work fulfilled a desire to refresh the memories, established an event through cooperative effort and welcomed tour goers to enjoy worthwhile afternoon adventure into local history.

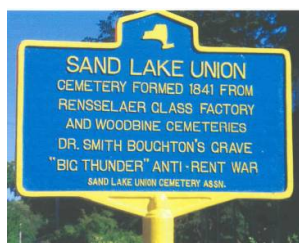
Looking to the future, creating history. Another appraisal day is scheduled for October. The September meeting will remind us of wool passing on trucks along Route 43 and noontime mill whistles when we hear about current operations at Faith Mill on Burden Lake Road.

Telling our stories, reminiscing, is ongoing by cassette tape. A live program is upcoming, a vital part of connecting with one another.

Quality is not synonymous with quantity, but making it so is possible when we gather. Honoring our heritage, I am looking forward to a successful gathering, one after another! Historically Yours, Nancy Waterbury Davis

## SLHS Officers and Chairpersons 2004-05

President (May – October 2004)	Nancy W. Davis	674-2472
Vice President	Mary French	674-5710
Corresponding Secretary	Marion Hacker	674-3191
Recording Secretary	Annamae Hebert	283-1286
Treasurer	Grace Briscoe	674-0982
Program Chairperson	Michael St.Germain	674-5374
Ways & Means Chairperson	Linda Ormsby	674-3624
Publicity Chairperson	Mary French	674-5710
Oral History Chairperson	Nancy W. Davis	674-2742
Refreshments Chairperson	Ginny McGreevy	674-2313
Archivist	Karen Wood	674-2970
Librarian	Ruth Bordt	674-3208
<i>Historical Highlights</i> Editor	Robert Lilly	674-3430
<i>Historical Highlights</i> Publisher/SLHS Webmaster	Andrew Mace	766-5413



*Inside: Sand Lake Historical Markers, September meeting information, other local "historical" events, and more!*



## Sand Lake Historical Markers

Until a few years ago, Sand Lake had but one historical marker in the town...

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

That “lone marker” is the one in front of Trinity Lutheran Church and makes reference to the wooden structure that was erected in 1816 and then burned in 1944.

The church’s history is interesting. A group of Lutheran settlers formed a church in this area in 1776. Their church was log construction, built in Rensselaerwyck about one mile southwest of West Sand Lake on the present Thomas I. Cipperley property. Title to the land was purchased from Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1801. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church opened in 1816 at the West Sand Lake site. Its history meshes with the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church.

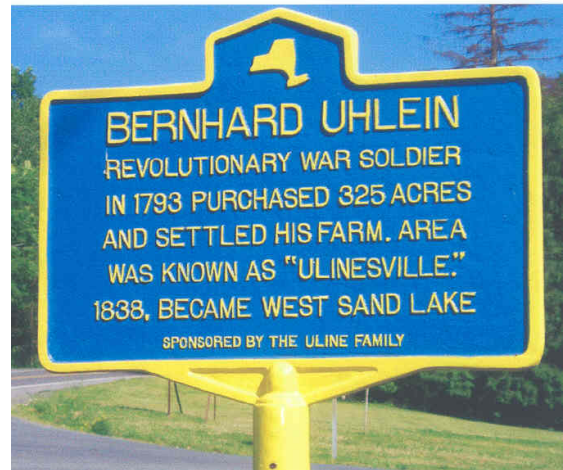
In 1838, parishioners left the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church over the issues of antislavery and temperance and formed the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church. This church was a station on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves. Rev. Nickolas Van Alstyne, with the secret name “Paul,” gave



messages in code during Sunday sermons for abolitionists’ meetings and the movement of slaves to freedom. Zion’s Lutheran then became the First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

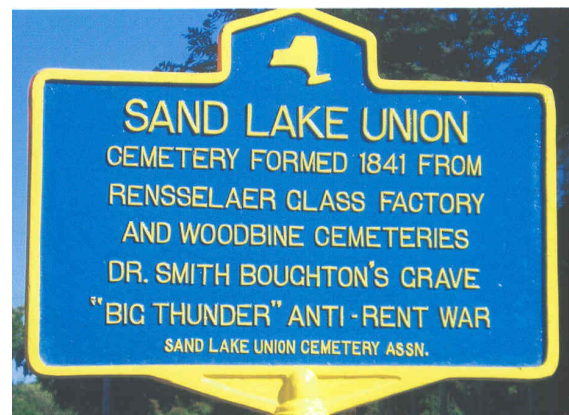
In 1926, the congregations of the First and Second Evangelical Lutheran churches reunited and became Trinity Lutheran Church. Services were held in the original Zion Evangelical, or First Evangelical Lutheran Church. The building was struck by lightning and burned on August 14, 1944. Between 1944 and 1954, services were held in the Second Evangelical Lutheran Church building while the present brick building was being completed. The site of the Second Lutheran Church is the present Sand Lake Dry Cleaning and Laundromat. (Location: West Sand Lake, Rt. 150.)

In the late 1990s, Town Historian Judy Rowe began an emphasis on getting deserving sites identified with historical markers.



### BERNHARD UHLEIN

The first marker of this initiative was donated by the Uline Family Association in memory of Bernhard Uhlein, who served in the Revolutionary War. He was a Palatine German who arrived in Philadelphia as an indentured worker. He made his way to Rensselaerwyck’s East Manor and received a 325-acre grant of land from the Patroon VanRensselaer. His farm became known as Ulinesville and in 1838 it was named West Sand Lake. (Location: West Sand Lake, Rt.150 and Shaver Rd.)



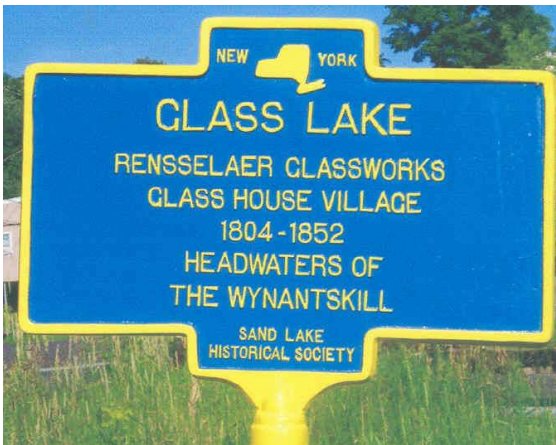
### SAND LAKE UNION CEMETERY

The Sand Lake Union Cemetery Association purchased a sign to mark the formation of the Cemetery in 1841 from the Rensselaer Glass Factory and Woodbine cemeteries. The earliest marked gravestone is 1807. In addition to many Revolutionary and Civil War gravesites, James Averill’s horse Moscow is buried on the Averill plot. The Averill family had Moscow’s grave marked a few years ago [Ed. note: See Historical Highlights, v28, # 2, Winter 2001-2002.] Also there is the grave of Dr. Smith Boughton, who was known as “Big Thunder” during the Anti-Rent War. (Location: Sand Lake, Routes 43 and 66.)





**BURDEN LAKE.** The Burden Lake Association sponsored a sign noting that the three Burden Lakes were formed by the Wynantskill Improvement Association. Water from Wynantskill Creek flows from its headwaters at Glass Lake. Over the years, the Wynantskill was used for water power by the many mills along its banks in the town of Sand Lake, Albia and Troy until it reached its terminus in South Troy, where it powered the second largest water wheel in the world at the Burden Iron Works. (Location: Burden Lake Rd. and 1<sup>st</sup> Dyke Rd.)



**GLASS LAKE /GLASS HOUSE.** Jeremiah Van Rensselaer founded the Rensselaer Glass Factory in 1804. The village on this site consisted of 34 workers' homes, a store, pottery, ashery, school, doctor's office, wood cutters' cabins, a home for the factory superintendent, a home for the superintendent in charge of glass making, horse barns, warehouses, cylinder packing house and boarding houses. The land consisted of a wood lease from Patroon Van Rensselaer of 5000 acres and 346 acres around the lake. Glass Lake is also the headwaters of the Wynantskill Creek and makes its journey as described for the Burden Lake marker (above). (Location: Glass Lake, Routes 43 and 66 at Glass Lake Rd.)

**SAND LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH.** The Sand Lake Historical Society purchased this marker. Sand Lake Baptist Church, the oldest public building in the Town of Sand Lake, was erected in 1805 as a meetinghouse for Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. The Methodists sold their meetinghouse rights to the Presbyterians in 1831 and built their church at Glass Lake. In 1835, the Presbyterians sold their portion of the church to the Baptists and erected a church at the corner of Routes 43 and 66 in Sand Lake (now the Sand Lake Center for the



Arts). On December 29, 1831, 18 believers were set apart to form an independent Baptist Church to be known as the "Second Baptist Church of Sand Lake." (After the town of Poestenkill was formed from part of the town of Sand Lake in 1848, the First Baptist Church changed its name to Poestenkill Baptist Church and the Second Baptist Church was called Sand Lake Baptist Church.) In 2004, the church was named to the National Register of Historic Places. (Location: Averill Park, Route 43.)

In addition to these six markers, negotiations are underway for a marker at West Sand Lake for Underground Railroad activities and one for the Faith Mills complex.

Town historian Judy Rowe would like to have one at the Parker Road site of the log cabin Lutheran Church and pastor's home/schoolhouse, which was erected in 1776 on the present Thomas Cipperley property. Later it was taken down and the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church opened in 1816 on the site of the present Trinity Lutheran Church in West Sand Lake.

We would like to see this project continue. You can help by letting the Historical Society or Town Historian know of additional sites deserving of historical markers, businesses and/or organizations willing to contribute to the erecting of future historical markers, and individuals who would like to contribute toward a marker's purchase.

And we can all remember to point these markers out to persons when we conduct an impromptu tour! — *Mary French*

## SLHS "Antiques Roadshow" Redux

On Saturday, October 2, 2004, the Society will again host an antiques appraisal fundraiser at the Sand Lake Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Professional antique appraisals by Charles L. Flint of *ART & ANTIQUES, Inc.*, Lenox, MA, will be available for a donation of \$5 for each appraisal or 3 appraisals for \$10. Mr. Flint is a respected antiques authority, and is donating his time to SLHS.

Participants will be able to purchase snacks, sandwiches and beverages during the event. Everyone is encouraged to support this fundraiser.

The Society has a very active community outreach agenda. In the past two years, our donations have supported Sand Lake Center for the Arts, Averill Park High School Scholarship Programs, purchase of Glass Lake and Sand Lake Baptist Church historical markers and the Sand Lake Veterans' Memorial Park. We have been able to make these contributions as a result of funds earned primarily through the sale of *Images of America SAND LAKE*. These projects exemplify our mission of **PRESERVING THE PAST; ENRICHING THE FUTURE**. You can help us to continue our generous support of worthy local projects by coming to the "Roadshow" with your friends, antiques and empty stomachs!

## September Meeting

On September 14 at 7:30 p.m., our program meeting will be at Sand Lake Baptist Church, 2960 NY Route 43. Richard Metzger will give a program on his business, Signature Stones, Inc. He began work in his garage and then in 1996 located at a former Faith Mills building on Burden Lake Road.

Metzger does etched animal images, desk and garden stones and has expanded to custom design and corporate logos in over 32 types of precious stone and domestic river stone. He will also share his future plans for the Faith Mills building with us.

As always, refreshments are served at the close of the program, and the public is invited.

## Memorial Awards

Each year, the Society awards two memorial awards to senior students of Averill Park High School who excel in History. The recipients this year are Rebecca Calhoun and Adam Poloski.

Adam is the son of Stanley and Jenni Poloski of Wynantskill. This fall he will be entering Hamilton College in Clinton New York to continue his studies.

Rebecca is the Daughter of Dan and Colleen Calhoun of Averill Park. Rebecca is looking forward to a new and exciting life at Houghton College, a Christian College of Liberal Arts and Science in Allegany County.

The Society makes these awards annually in memory of past members. This year Hallina Kacharain and Joseph Warren, Sr. were remembered.

## Short Takes

**One-Room School Display:** Town historian Judy Rowe has a display of our one-room schools and their students in the Town Hall lobby. The next featured display will be Totem Lodge. When you visit this display, continue to look at the pictures on the walls and artifacts on permanent exhibit. Another too well-kept secret display area is the hallway from the library to the exit of the Municipal Building complex close to the State Police Offices.

**RCHS News:** The Town of Sand Lake is the featured town for the months of August and September at the Rensselaer County Historical Society. Glass Lake glass items and the tools used to make them are on display.

On Saturday, September 11, the Society's Hart-Cluett House will be open for tours. The one-hour tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. at RCHS, 57 Second Street. The tour is free for RCHS members and \$5 for nonmembers.

**Images of America SAND LAKE:** Copies of the book continue to sell steadily. You may obtain *Images* at the Town Clerk's or Town Historian's office. They always make excellent gifts.

**Suggestion for Highlights:** We received a note from Ruth Fuess that she likes to keep her copy of Historical Highlights and that any send in clippings be printed with a blank backing. It's great to hear that some members are interested in keeping their copies. We will try to do this in the future. However, we usually have extra copies that could be supplied on request.

**Help Wanted:** Assistant editor to help produce Historical Highlights. Issued three times a year. Help is needed to write or edit articles and research local history, help print and mail each issue. Pay: full satisfaction! Contact the editor for more information.

## Membership renewal

If you haven't done so recently, take a look at our web site: <<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory>>

Recent additions to the site include "Town of Sand Lake Schools Prior to 1929" as featured in the last newsletter. There is also a new page with links to local historical societies and other history resources.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the site. E-mail: <[sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)>.

## Membership

The numbers after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* are your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1- May 31. If the numbers are 03-04, you're due, and we thank you for renewing your membership. We look forward to having a fully up-to-date membership list and appreciate any persons who have not renewed completing the form below when you send your dues.



## Sand Lake Historical Society

### Membership: Join / Renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 per individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$8 per family \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*. Mail to: Sand Lake Historical Society, Post Office Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196



*FORWARDING/ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED*

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

<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

**E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com**

Historical Highlights  
Bob Lilly, Editor  
Andrew Mace, Publisher

