



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 35, Number 3

1974 · Celebrating our 35th Year · 2009

Spring 2009

From the president

Anniversaries are abounding this year:

- ✦ We hope those of you who purchased our calendar celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Sand Lake Historical Society are enjoying them.
- ✦ How proud we can be of the fine selections for “Celebrating 400 Years of History with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial” at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. We appreciate being able to add our support to this endeavor.
- ✦ Doesn't the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday at the Berti's on Schumann Road, aka the Knowlson House, on May 30th sound so historical and so “something for the whole family” GOOD!!!
- ✦ We hope to see you at the annual meeting on May 12th and with Michael Barrett make a return visit to the Anti-Rent war era. Sand Lake was in the middle of it!!
- ✦ In West Sand Lake the Rite-Aid Pharmacy will be progressing and so will restoration to one of the old buildings. We'll look forward to seeing Old Joe right up front and center behind the new glass doors of the old West Sand Lake Fire House. And be sure to STOP before you look up to see the eagle on top of the spire. How regal his picture looks!!
- ✦ Another historical marker is close to being finalized for the Cotton House.

Don't all of these things make you so proud to be part of **OUR TOWN?** My buttons are popping!! — *Mary French.*

Upcoming programs and events

- ✦ Our **annual meeting will be a family-style dinner on May 12** at the Lakeview on Crystal Lake with tossed salad, roast turkey, stuffed pork loin, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, glazed carrots, squash, applesauce, lemon meringue pie and beverage. Social time begins at 6:00 pm. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Program of the evening features Mike Barrett presenting *The Anti-Rent War of 1839-1869*. Thirty years of armed resistance, terror, imprisonment and strife swept across upstate New York. Lacking financial and political power, resisters to having rent collected on land they felt was within their ownership, adopted the Boston Tea Party tactic of “Indian” disguise in order to stymie law enforcement and eviction. Cost is \$20.00. *Please return the form elsewhere in this issue by May 1. For questions, contact Mary French 674-5710.*
- ✦ **Famous and Unusual Gravestones** is the topic Peter Shaver, historic preservation program assistant, will present on **June 9**. You will be astonished at what is carved in stone!!!
- ✦ The Sand Lake Historical Society and the Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee will share a table at **Earth Day**, being held at Zion's United Church of Christ, Taborton, on **April 25** from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hard Times & Home Fires: Beyond the Battlefield 1861-65

A multitude of enjoyable and educational activities will await you and your family at 42 Schumann Road, less than a mile from Sand Lake Center for the Arts, from noon until early evening on Saturday May 30. Hoop skirts, military uniforms, demonstrations of period crafts, handkerchief dolls, horseshoe nail rings, wagons, tintypes, rousing dances and music, music, music will take you back in time as you experience life as it was in the second half of nineteenth century America.

First you'll experience the Opening Ceremony and flag raising. Next, enjoy your own picnic lunch and then while away the afternoon as you tour Berti's historic house; partake of refreshing lemonade, iced tea, and popcorn; explore the various indoor and outdoor displays and participate in many hands-on activities, including an open jam for the musically inclined. This is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and it's just possible that Mr. Lincoln himself will be there giving his famous Gettysburg address. Box lunch suppers will be available to top off the day's events.

"Hard Times and Home Fires" will benefit the Sand Lake Center for the Arts and a donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family is suggested. The closing time of 7 p.m. will allow everyone to make their way to the Center in time to enjoy the evening's Squire Jacob concert with Jed Marum and Allen Brenner as they continue the Civil war theme through their superior musical offerings.

Averills, Howards & Related Families' Reunion

This reunion will be June 26-28, 2009. Persons are expected from Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. Contact person is Evelyn C. Howard Murray, a descendant of James and Clarissa Sliter Averill and Philip H. and Ruth Howard. Her email is echmurray@verizon.net.

2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee

Meetings of the Planning Committee are held on the second Thursday from 7p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Town Hall. Next meeting is April 9th.

Progress in planning includes dates for celebration in parade and ideas for other events up to 2012 as well as a logo contest and fund raising activities.

If you are unable to attend meetings, your participation is invited by writing to: 2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee P.O. Box 273, Sand Lake, NY 12153 or e-mails to Nancy W. Davis (nanwd@mailstation.com) or Fred Erikson (frderikson@yahoo.com).

Thank you to each and all who have participated so far. Stop and see us at the Earth Day displays at Zion's

United Church of Christ of Taborton on April 25th from 10 a.m. – 4p.m. — *Nancy W. Davis*

Gifts of history

Have you found someone to give a copy of *SAND LAKE REVISITED*? The Historical Society realizes a 50% profit from their sales and receives a 10% royalty for sales in other venues. The cost of *SAND LAKE REVISITED* is \$21.60 (inc. tax) and \$3.00 shipping, for each copy. *SAND LAKE* our first book is available for \$20.50 (inc. tax). Copies are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office for the Society. You may also contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society. The VHS or DVD, "A Journey by Postcard from Crooked Lake to West Sand Lake" is available for \$18.00 with postage \$1.75 for each copy. Robert J. Lilly's book *The Wyanants Kill: a small stream, but mighty* is available for \$16.20 (inc. tax). You may contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society PO Box 492, West Sand Lake, NY 12196.

SLHS on the Internet

Our new, permanent web site address is: <http://sandlakehistory.org>! **Our e-mail address remains the same:** sandlakehistory@aol.com

Dues are due!

The number after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* is your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1 to May 31. If the number is 2009 you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership on the form in this issue. Not renewing will mean your subscription to *Historical Highlights* will stop.

Nominating Committee report

Nominating committee members, Annamae Hebert, Gladys Larkin and Ross French present the following persons for trustees: Nancy W. Davis (reelect 2nd term) and Gary Meislin (reelect 2nd term). Elections will be held at the annual meeting.



The cupola housing this bell has been restored: details inside!

Cemetery Care Remembered

It's good to remember those things which will remove barriers when the time comes that cemetery use is necessary. Ross and I had attended a program on cemetery care in New York State several years ago so I reviewed the material we received. A statement, which caught my attention, was that 1,800 cemeteries are not for profit cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Department of State, Division of Cemeteries and the remaining 4,000 are owned by religious, private or municipal organizations. Checking the internet for our town, Sand Lake Union and Elmwood Cemeteries are the only ones under the Department of State category.

I called Audrey Trupia who is secretary - treasurer for the board of trustees of Sand Lake Union. She stated the most necessary thing for using the cemetery is having the deed to your lot(s). Responsibility for the lot(s) is to keep monuments in good repair, remove old floral pieces and trim any plantings as well as around the gravestones, markers and urns. Decorations which are placed on a monument make it easier for mowing the lot. The superintendent can be contacted for the price of providing fill for a grave which has sunk. She noted that the cemetery is getting old as far as the age of the persons caring for the plots.

I checked to see what deeds we had for the Raver, Gundrum and French plots for which we are the heirs.

For Sand Lake Union we have the following deeds: Mae Raver for lot # 439; Walter Gundrum for east half of lot #530; George Leavenworth and Leslie W. French for lot # 392 1/2. For Woodbine Cemetery we have the deed of Frederick Raver for the most southerly part of lot ninety-two.

Interestingly the Sand Lake Union lot #439 and the Woodbine lot #92 are side by side. Audrey stated there may be occasions when a burial can not take place if a deed to the cemetery plot is not available.

Town historian Judy Rowe gave us an oral history on the history of Sand Lake Union, which we taped. The private plot of the Averill family, the glass factory worker's section called "Eagles Nest," Woodbine Cemetery and remainder of the acreage, combined to become Sand Lake Union Cemetery, which was incorporated in 1847. There are veterans from all of the wars beginning with the Revolutionary War. Flags are put on each of the known graves each year for Memorial Day. Persons of historical note within the cemetery are: Revolutionary War veteran Thomas Frothingham, who was also a New York State senator and first superintendent of the Rensselaer Glass Factory; Deputy Sheriff Willard Griggs, who was killed in the line of duty trying to collect rent during the Anti-Rent War and Dr. Smith Boughton who led the

Know all Men by these Presents, That THE WOODBINE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, in consideration of Ten (\$10) Dollars paid to it by Frederick Raver of North Greenbush, Rensselaer County, New York, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, doth hereby grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, convey and confirm to the said Frederick Raver his heirs and assigns the plat of land in the Cemetery of the said Association called "The Woodbine Cemetery," situated in the Town of Sand Lake, County of Rensselaer, State of New York, which lot is delineated and laid down on the Register Map or plan of the said Cemetery, in the possession of the said Association, and therein designated by the number as the most southerly part of Lot No. Ninety-two, containing about one hundred and sixty square feet.

Above: excerpt from a receipt for completion of payment in 1897 with Woodbine Cemetery seal and James W. Averill as witness. Below: Receipt for partial payment and digging child's grave in 1895.

Received of Frederick Raver the Dollars (\$10) part payment on lot No. 92, Woodbine Cemetery, Sand Lake.
Ellen A. Clark.
Pres. Woodbine Cemetery Ass.

Received of Frederick Raver the Dollars (\$2) for digging grave of his child on Lot No. 92, Woodbine Cemetery, Sand Lake.
Ellen A. Clark.
Pres. Woodbine Cemetery Ass.
Sand Lake Oct. 15, 1895.



Gravestone of "Moscow, Civil War Horse"

local Anti-Rent War protest. On the Averill plot is a marker to Moscow, James Averill's favorite horse given to him after the Civil War and buried at his feet.

Should a veteran's grave not have a monument

or the monument is beyond repair, one can be obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs. A base for the monument needs to be provided.

When I spoke with Audrey, she also mentioned the lot owner's meeting was that evening, so I went. There were 5 burials and 3 cremans interments during 2008. There are no plots available for sale. If a plot owner has part of a lot which they want to sell back to the cemetery, this can be done if there is a deed available for the transfer. (This was evident from the transfer that occurred with the Suppes' deed being transferred to Walter Gundrum.) The entire cemetery is under perpetual care. Again it came up that some undertakers will not bury in a cemetery plot if no deed is available. And some homeowner's insurance policies may cover monument care. Solar lights and painted monuments are not allowed. Troopers make periodic rounds as a deterrent to vandalism.

On the Raver lot my Aunt May Raver Senechal's husband Walter, who was a Spanish American War veteran, has a veteran's monument which I remember being the brilliant white of monuments in the National cemeteries. Now it is black. Completing this article is spurring me to restore it. The next question is "How and with what?"

The following was a handout and contains very helpful information.

FANNIN - LEHNER PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS

**TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR GRAVESTONE
CLEANING PROJECTS**
**ASSOCIATION FOR GRAVESTONE STUDIES
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NORTH BURIAL GROUND
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
JUNE 2000**

STONE TYPES

- **Marble and Limestone**
 - Water
 - Non-ionic Detergent (Photo-Flo from Kodak, Orvus Soap)
 - Household ammonia (Requires hose for rinsing and Hydriion Paper test strips for pH testing.)
 - Calcium Hypochlorite (HTH) for biological growth retardation (Requires hose for rinsing and Hydriion Paper test strips for pH testing.)
- **Slate and Other Stone**
 - Water
 - Non-ionic detergent (Photo-Flo from Kodak) (*Ed. product available from Stuyvesant Photo*)

CLEANING GENERAL

- Good water supply

- Non-ionic Detergent Photo-Flo – ¼ oz. /5 qts. Water
- 1 tbsp. / quart of water – Orvus Soap
- Ammonia – 1 cup / 1 gallon water (for marble only)
- Calcium hypochlorite – 2 oz. dry /1 gal. Water
- Assortment of brushes (**NOT WIRE**) (varying stiffness)
- Toothbrushes (firm), sponges
- Scrapers – plastic or wood

CLEANING NO-NO'S

- Wire brushes, metal instruments, abrasive pads (Scotchbrite, Brillo, Steel wool)
- Acid or acidic cleaners (**especially** on marble or limestone; should only be used by conservators with proper training on non-calcareous stone)
- Household cleaners: soap (Ivory), detergents (liquid or powder), Borax, Clorox, TSP, Calgon, Fantastik, Formula 409, Spic and Span (or any other abrasive cleaner)

Remember: The use of improper cleaning materials and practices can cause serious and irreparable damage to gravestones! Make sure the stone is stable before attempting to clean it – no flaking, delaminating, etc.

Other questions and concerns can best be addressed by contacting the following cemetery persons: Sand Lake Union - Robert Wagner president (674-3784) or Audrey Trupia, secretary – treasurer (674-3151) and James Flint superintendent (283-5303); Elmwood Cemetery - Sandra Billings, cemetery association president (283-4618), Peter Sprague assistant superintendent (674-2795). Elmwood Cemetery has recently acquired two acres of land for additional lots. As we mentioned other cemeteries would be under town, church or private property jurisdiction.

Someone is sure to ask how I make out with cleaning the veteran's monument. I promise that I will work on that project and will give a follow-up report in the next *Highlights*. — *Mary French*

West Sand Lake Firehouse Restorations

Ray Wheland undertook the Board of Commissioners' project to have the cupola of the bell tower on the old West Sand Lake Fire House restored. He is proud of the fine job which was done. When we went to photograph it for *Highlights*, he pointed out that the roof was restored with the curve in the roof line and grounding for lightning was installed. And the spire is back. Again it is points skyward and now has an eagle weather vane.

West Sand Lake Fire Company President Dennis Sinnott is pleased to announce the go-ahead for other restoration plans in the near future. From "years of fund raisers" they will install full glass doors in the front

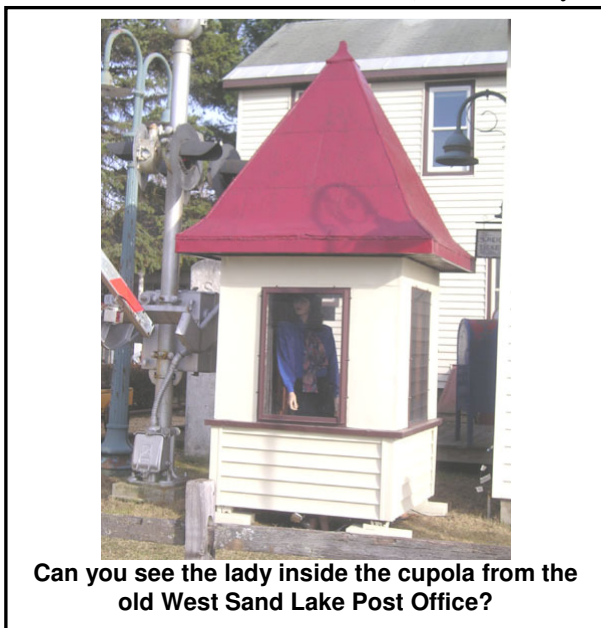


Close up of eagle weather vane at old West Sand Lake Fire House

made to look like the old doors with Old Joe and the hose cart on display.

Cupola from the old West Sand Lake Post Office

Another cupola came under Ray Wheland’s watchful eye and care in restoration. With property being demolished for the Rite Aid Pharmacy at West Sand Lake Corners, Ray Wheland, whose yard is full of artifacts of yesteryear, became aware that a cupola, which was not easily seen when passing in the front of the old West Sand Lake Post Office, (most recently Fine



Can you see the lady inside the cupola from the old West Sand Lake Post Office?

Art and Framing business) was close to being demolished. A reprieve was granted and Tom Cipperley helped Ray get the cupola down and over to his yard behind Hannaford’s (formerly Miller’s) Market. Ray

said there had been a ballroom on the upper story of that building and the cupola was over the back part of it. From the picture you can see the fine restoration job Ray has done, even to adding a lady who would be watching for the man in her life to return. That scene was a very prevalent one near the sea coast.

With the Rite Aid Pharmacy receiving the OK from the Town Planning Board it will be good to have a piece of one of the “old buildings” as a reminder of former days. Thanks, Ray!!

Log Church site, 1776

An historical marker now designates the site of the first church building in the town. It was a log building serving as pastor’s home, schoolhouse and Lutheran



Several donations to the Town Historian’s office made this marker a reality!

church located on the present Thomas I. Cipperley property. Several stones from the cemetery are preserved at Eastfield Village. The church was the forerunner of the Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, which opened in 1816.

Celebrate 400 years of history!

Sand Lake Center for the Arts is thrilled that the Sand Lake Historical Society is helping to support the many events the Center has planned to celebrate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial in the fall of 2009. Also providing funding is the Town of Sand Lake, the New York Council for the Humanities and ExploreNY 400. These events will be a wonderful opportunity for the community to meet some of our very famous Rensselaer County residents, and beyond, while also learning history. Check the Center’s website for updates – www.slca-ctp.org.

September 12, 2009, 8pm; \$18
Music Favorites of Hudson River School Artists, by the Musicians of Ma’alwyck

Sand Lake Center for the Arts will present the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, a classical ensemble with guitar, flute, violin, cello and two singers, who will present a program of the favorite music of Thomas Cole, considered the

founder of the Hudson River School of painting. He lived in the Catskills close to the Hudson River for the last decade of his life. An accomplished amateur flutist and guitarist, he enjoyed making music at his home with friends and colleagues. This program will draw upon music from his time and simulate an evening with Thomas Cole.

The program was specifically designed by the Musicians to commemorate Hudson River arts history and will be held in the Center's Fuess Performing Space. The Musicians will share information with the audience during the performance.

October 4, 2009, 2:30 pm; no cost
Remembering Life in Albany and the Hudson River Area: Readings by William Kennedy

Noted Averill Park resident William Kennedy will share some of his background on the Hudson River area through readings from his works. Acclaimed author, screenwriter and playwright as well as a professor of creative writing at UAlbany, William Kennedy has been recognized with numerous literary awards including the Pulitzer Prize. Many of Kennedy's novels are set in Albany and make use of incidents from Albany's history. A reception will follow his presentation.

October 10, 2009, 8pm; \$16
Folk Songs and Lore of the Hudson River Valley by Rich Bala and the Barefoot Boys

Rich Bala and the Barefoot Boys will commemorate the history and folklore of the Hudson River when they appear in period clothing, presenting songs and stories celebrating life along the Hudson River. Take a journey back in time to the Hudson Valley of long ago with The Barefoot Boys as your musical "tour guides". With their extensive repertoire, exquisite 3-part harmonies, and enormous range of instruments (guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, concertina, standup bass, and both mountain and hammered dulcimers), Rich, Tom and Rick will lead you along the rivers and canals and then up into the mountains of this historic and majestic region. Along the way, you'll hear about sloops and steamboats, visit with canalers and whaleboat crews, sing chanteys and songs from the lumber camp shantys, relive events from the Revolutionary Wars and the tenant farmers' war, and in the end come away with a fuller, deeper, and more meaningful appreciation of the significant and expansive role this region played in shaping the history, development, and legacy of this country. Rich and his groups have performed in many Hudson River Valley festivals and at historical sites.

November 1, 2009, 2:30pm; free
Remembering Life in Albany and the Hudson River Area; Lecture and Discussion by Fred LeBrun

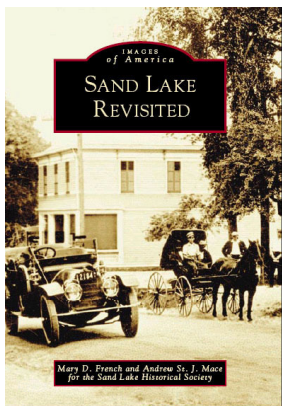
Noted columnist Fred LeBrun will share his memorable thoughts and experiences through lecture and discussion. Fred has been a highly regarded columnist at the Albany *Times Union*, working on the paper in various capacities for over 40 years. He has an immense appreciation for the Hudson River Valley, where he grew up. A reception will follow his lively discussion.

Scenes of Early Life in Albany and the Hudson River Area by Len Tantillo.

Gallery Show of historical prints: November 14 - December 31. Free
Reception: 2:30pm, November 22. Free
Slide Show Presentation: 2:30pm, December 6.
Adults - \$10; Under 18 - \$5

During November and December, 2009, Sand Lake Center for the Arts will feature a gallery showing of selected prints of the historical works of talented artist Len Tantillo in the areas of Native Americans in New York State, the Dutch in early New York, and early settlement and colonial times in the Hudson River region. His work has appeared in exhibitions, books, periodicals, and television in the United States, and the Netherlands. Recently Mr. Tantillo was commissioned to create a painting for the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum. A reception will be held for the artist on November 22. On December 6, Mr. Tantillo will do a slide show presentation discussing his work. His art work will be available for sale.





<http://sandlakehistory.org>

E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Historical Highlights

Mary French, Editor

Andrew Mace, Publisher



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sand Lake Historical Society

Post Office Box 492

West Sand Lake, New York 12196



Sand Lake Historical Society
Membership Application
Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation

Name _____
Number of Dinners (\$20.00 each) _____ Dinner Subtotal \$ _____

Membership: Join / Renew

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$3 per student (13-22) _____ \$5 per individual _____ \$8 per family _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

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. **Please mail by May 1, 2009, if you are planning to attend the Annual Dinner/Meeting!**

Give this slip to someone you know to become a member.



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