



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

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Winter 2010

From the president

- 1 It's hard to believe the Quadricentennial celebrations will soon be past history. We still have the Sand Lake Center for the Arts' highlight!! Len Tantillo is a fastidious historian of every painting he does, with his finished product appearing to be a digital photograph. *Display of Scenes of Early Life in Albany and the Hudson River Area* by Len Tantillo includes a Gallery Show of his historical prints (through December 31 – free) and a Slide Show Presentation at 2:30 p.m. on December 6, 2009 — Adults \$10 and Under 18 \$5.
- 1 At our December meeting at the Knowlson House we will present an Award for Restoration and Beautification to the West Sand Lake Fire Company for the excellent job they have undertaken in restoring the old firehouse. It will be a museum for their history and will have the Town's first fire apparatus, "Old Joe" purchased in 1874 for \$650.00, and the hose cart purchased in 1889 for \$80.00, in the two bays behind the lighted glass doors. A Visual Photo Frame will have pictures giving the Fire Company's history.
- 1 Our Antiques Appraisal Day netted \$920.50 toward the scholarships for graduating Averill Park High School seniors who excel in history. This year's recipients were Lydia Rebehn and Nathan Sweet and were given in memory of Robert Lilly, Iona Mosher, Frank Morlock and Kenneth Martin.
- 1 Check out the programs for the rest of the year. Unless otherwise specified, they are at 7:30 p.m. at Sand Lake Baptist Church, Route 43 in Averill Park. Watch *The Advertiser* and our web site for each month's program. We look forward to seeing you there. — *Mary French*

Upcoming programs and events

- 1 On **December 8** at 6:30 pm we will again enjoy the hospitality of Barbara Neu and Ronald Berti at their beautifully restored Knowlson House on Schumann Road. This is a covered dish dinner. Bring a dish to share; dessert, place setting and beverage will be provided. Our program will be Kathy Sheehan, Rensselaer County Historian who will explore the history of the towns and cities that border the Hudson River from Schodack to Schaghticoke using historic maps, photographs and letters. Also bring nonperishable food items for Doors of Hope.
- 1 **January 12**, Kay Bradley will share pictures and memories of the "Olde Bradley Amusement Park" which was located opposite what is now Quinn's Motor Car and the Arlington House on Route 43. Bring your photos and memories of Bradley Park.
- 1 **February 9**, Mel's Belles will be Melody Howarth presenting her work on doll restoration and professional porcelain repair. You may bring your dolls and porcelain pieces for her to identify, appraise and give information on what repairs are necessary.
- 1 John Warren, on **March 9**, will present his new book *The Poesten Kill: Waterfalls to Waterworks in the Capital District*, which traces its use by the Native Americans, a source of wild places and waterfalls for artists and adventurers, and employment opportunities to those who harnessed its waterpower.
- 1 **April 13**, John (Mac) McEvelly will do a program on Morgan's Artillery, a local Civil War reenactment group formed in June 2000. The unit fields a full-scale, high-quality 1841 mountain howitzer that features a reproduction gun carriage made in Troy, New York, during the Civil War period. Morgan's Artillery also adds a touch of Irish history with many symbols such as flags, uniforms and, of course, stories and Irish humor. Morgan's Artillery is affiliated with Capital District Civil War Round Table, American Artillery Association and 1st Division Army of Northern Virginia.
- 1 On **May 11**, at a place to be announced, Mike Kelley will give a talk on his role in moving a Dutch farmhouse known as the "Winne House" from the Capital District to the Metropolitan Museum. Joining him will be Bill McMillen, who built all the windows, doors and fireplace molding that needed replacing. (*continued inside*)

Inside....



Fairs, casinos, games and more!

1 Gloria Waldron Hukle, who resides in Averill Park, will talk openly on **June 8** about historical research and some of the characters from each of her books revealing the one that was drawn from old Albany life, who was the sole catalyst for all three works now known as the Waldron Series Books. The three novels are *Manhattan Seeds Of The Big Apple* (17th Century New Amsterdam), *The Diary Of A Northern Moon* (20th Century Adirondacks-North Creek and Lake George) and *Threads: An American Tapestry*, an early 18th century story of a Provincial Hudson Valley woman, the indomitable Margaret Vandenberg. For more information please visit her website at:
www.authorgloriawaldronhukle.com

2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee Update

The Salute and Scoot fund raiser had a good turnout, increased sponsorship and raised approximately \$400.00. Thank you to all participants and Alan Blond, Fitness Coach, 43 Mall.

Early in 2010, an invitation will be sent to town businesses inviting them to participate in a parade of vehicles of town businesses. We are calling it "Our Town on Display" and it will be held on May 1, 2010, which is Workers' Day.

Four Girl Scouts from Troop #1243 working on their Gold Awards, will be collecting memories of Sand Lake residents and making them available for future use. Their troop leader is Debbie Bloomfield.

Thank you to Andy Mace for designing our letterhead. Suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Watch *The Advertiser* for "Town History Notes."

The next meeting will be January 14, 2010, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Town Hall. — Nancy W. Davis, co chair

Gifts of history

Have you found someone to give a copy of *Sand Lake Revisited*? The 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 Wynants Kill: a small stream, but mighty* is available for \$16.20 (inc. tax).

And Marvin Bubie's book *On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Dutch Heritage Through the Municipal Seals of New York State* is available for \$27.00 (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.

We have a new set of note cards available (see Fall 2009 issue of *Historical Highlights*), which includes: I.N. Wright's Drug Store, Troy & New England Railway Station, Minahan's Wendell Inn (Crooked Lake House), the Butts House (now Cumberland farms site), the Fox Mansion and the Knowlson House. The set of six costs



\$8.25 (inc. tax).

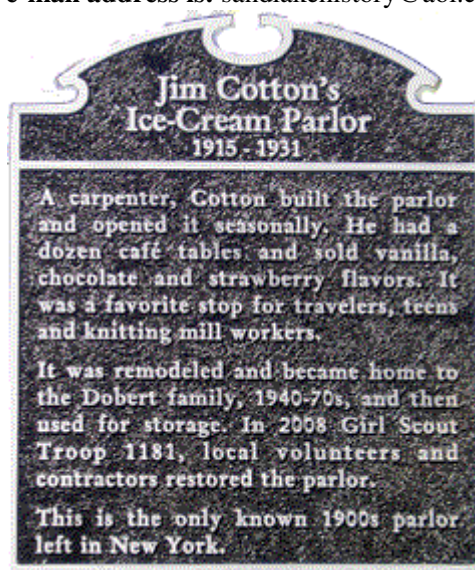
Just in time for Christmas are the ornaments for \$12.00 each (incl. tax).

The note cards and ornaments are available from Chris Kronau 674-2026 Ext 22 or 674-3050. Order information will also be available on our web site.

SLHS on the Internet

Our web site address is: <http://sandlakehistory.org/>

Our e-mail address is: sandlakehistory@aol.com



Cotton House open house!

The historical sign for the Cotton House gives a thorough account of its beginnings and restoration. Watch *The Advertiser* for an open house during the Christmas vacation of the Girl Scouts who worked on this project for their Gold Award.

Dean of country correspondents

Below is the picture from page 91 in *Sand Lake Revisited* with Charles and Ida Miller who were principal and teachers of West Sand Lake District No. 4 from 1891 to 1909. The school was located next to the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church on Route 150.

In *The Times Record* issue for June 16, 1956, Dwight Marvin, editor of *The Record Newspapers* presented "a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Charles R. Miller, West Sand Lake correspondent for the paper who will be 90 tomorrow. Mrs. Miller wrote the news of the hamlet of Best back in 1896 when the paper was founded." From Hilda Goodwin's article with the headline "Dean of Writers for Record Still Covers Town at 90," we learn much of interest about this remarkable lady. She began teaching in 1883 on a temporary certificate before her 16th birthday and walked four miles each way to teach in her school. Shortly after her marriage she and her husband worked together at District No. 4 teaching each class including first year high school. The school had one large room where all pupils sat and a smaller room where they went to recite. They rode to school in a two-wheeled cart behind a horse named Kit. In winter when the snow was deep, Kit never failed to get through. Neighbors came to help the principal and his teacher get to work on schedule. In 1898 she and her husband took the examination for teachers' state certificates and received their permanent certification in 1899.



gathering news from West Sand Lake by telephone or having it left at her home.



She had been writing West Sand Lake news since 1936. Hilda Goodwin's article of June 16, 1961, the day before her 95th birthday (picture upper right) noted that she is believed to be the dean of country correspondents in the state and possibly the nation. At that time she was still

Here are some of her bits of news: ...*A new lamp called incandescent vapor gas light is being sold in the grocery store...*The next day after 17 fowls and one turkey were stolen, four more of the feathery tribe were taken from Charles Wetherwax's hennery. The turkey was rather a pet with the family and they intended to keep it on that account...*Sleighing is good...*Of a neighbor who "while taking clothes from the line fell striking on the back of her head causing instant death," Mrs. Miller wrote, "She will be greatly missed by her many friends and neighbors. She had a kind heart ever ready to help at all times when occasion required."...*J. Graham has sold his mare Anna Feeney.*

Upon hearing from their former pupils in many sections of the country, Mrs. Miller said, "The greatest comfort I get from life is in the letters I receive from our students, telling me how they appreciate what we did for them. I am fully convinced that what a man does lives after him. I see it in the boys and girls we taught."

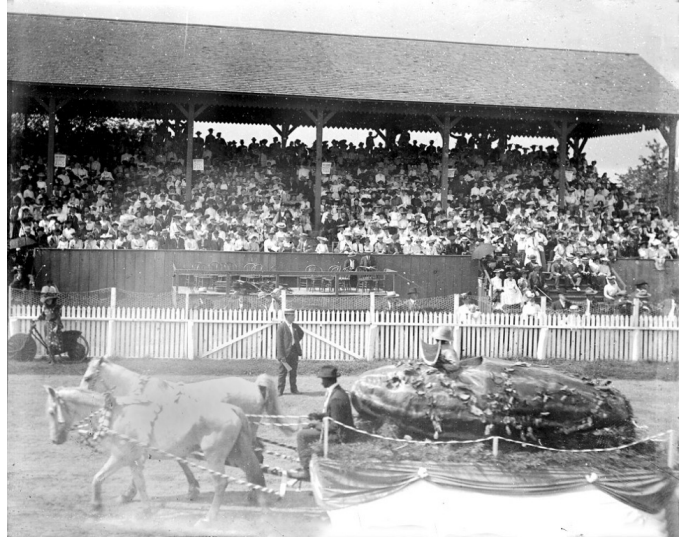
West Sand Lake Fair glass plate images

Thank you to Town of Schodack Historian Diane Hutchinson for making available to Sand Lake Town Historian Judy Rowe copies of these pictures of the 1904 West Sand Lake Fair, which gives expanded coverage of this event. The glass plate images were donated to Esquatuk from Bill Lisosky's photo collection by his daughter Helen Guarino. Fair grounds were on the present site of the West Sand Lake Elementary School.

The 1904 Fair at West Sand Lake was four days, September 16 – 19.



Zooming in on this picture, the float is a giant pickle with a person popping out at the judges' stand. There is a capacity crowd in the large grandstand.



This parade float shows the chimney and trees outside a cabin with a bed inside. More evident is the large space that the fair grounds used outside the parade area.





















































Do you think the women in their long full skirts envied the daring young "lady" on the flying trapeze? And she was VERY DARING in her attire!!!!



The most that we know of these pictures, given to Town Historian Judy Rowe by Schodack Town Historian Diane Hutchinson, is that they were taken in 1935 in front of *Red Lion Casino*. On the back is noted that it was at Reichard's Lake near Algonquin Beach. Attention, Readers!! What can any of you add?



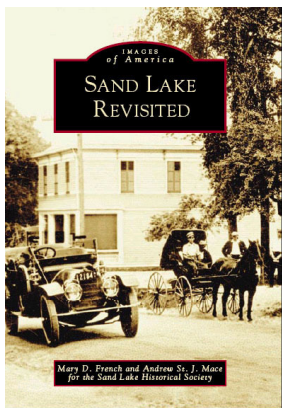
Thank you to the Educational Department of Colgate & Co., New York City for this fun advertisement and a good party game.

There was once a little  named  ry. He was a n  little boy but he did  th  very much. He said that  and  who  their  are  simply  to  other so much. But one  day morning he woke up with a swollen  and a -ache. My! how he  and cried. When the Doctor came and  ry's face he said: "A-ha!  see, here is a  who does  brush his  . No  der they ache." "W  shall  do?" asked  ry. Just after the Doctor  a little  hopped in at the  and said: "U should  your  every day with  'S      ry thought this was good advice. He got  and found the cream tasted as nice as  dy. He was sur  d  cause he supposed a dentifrice always tasted like . After he used it for half a y  he went to the dentist who found his  were clean and white and there was very little work  do. He told  ry that  is a  dentifrice and a good 1, 2. Now  ry uses it twice a day and knooooo the meaning of

GOOD TEETH - GOOD HEALTH

After all have puzzled out little Henry's adventure with Colgate's Ribbon Dental Cream, everyone may write the hidden words on separate sheet of paper. Then it can be decided who guessed and spelled the most words correctly.

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<http://sandlakehistory.org>

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Historical Highlights

Mary French, Editor

Andrew Mace, Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society

Post Office Box 492

West Sand Lake, New York 12196



Sand Lake Historical Society
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Membership: Join / Renew

Name _____

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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

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



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