



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 36, Number 3

Spring 2010

From the president

- ✦ We say thank you to Andy Mace and Marion Hacker who have served two terms (6 years) as trustees and must step down for a year before they are eligible to being considered again as trustees.
- ✦ Who will receive this year's scholarship awards of \$500.00 presented to a boy and a girl graduating senior, who excelled in history? They are being given in memory of Anne E. Lilly and Henry Goebel.
- ✦ From the gifts sent to the Historical Society in memory of Robert J. Lilly, the trustees thought it fitting to present a gift of \$250.00 in Bob's name to the Hudson Mohawk Gateway and the Rensselaer County Historical Society.
- ✦ On May 8th at 10 AM the Bicentennial Planning Committee (BPC) is sponsoring "Sand Lake on Display Things That Go...Vehicle Parade" (see BCP publicity). Our feature article for this issue is how transportation has changed over the years. In last issue we learned Ida Miller walked 4 miles to and from her first teaching job. Enjoy the memories of how our ancestors went from place to place through the years. Be sure to come and view our businesses on parade and see today's vehicles first hand. What part of "the good old days" do you want back? ☺
- ✦ This September's meeting will be a change of date to join again with the Bicentennial Planning Committee's celebration on **September 18th**. (see program publicity)
- ✦ When you visit Earth Day – Go Green 2010 on Saturday April 24th from 10 AM – 4PM at Zion's United Church of Christ of Taborton, look for the table being shared by Sand Lake Historical Society and the Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee.

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

- ✦ On May 11th our Annual Meeting will be held at the Lakeview Inn. Beginning at 6PM there will be a cash bar; a family style dinner of roast turkey and roast beef, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, glazed carrots, red cabbage, tossed salad and pecan pie will be served at 6:30 PM. Cost of dinner is \$20.00. 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. (See registration form).
- ✦ Gloria Waldron Hukle who resides in Averill Park will give a talk on June 8th 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.
- ✦ On September 18th we will again join with the Bicentennial Planning Committee celebration for 2010. There will be dinner (cost TBD) beginning at 6PM at the Church of the Covenant United Methodist with a program on the 30 years of service of the Troy and New England Railway, which ran from Albia to Averill Park 1895 – 1925. Ross Sterantino is creating a model of the trolley built to scale and will be showing it on the 4 feet of tracks he has built.

2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee

Thanking the faithful who continue to meet for planning is a pleasure: Marilynne Whittam of Sand Lake Seniors, Pat Robelotto, Mary and Ross French of Sand Lake Historical Society, Peter Stevens and Co-chair Fred Erickson.

Thanking John Simonds for setting up our Bicentennial Blog site: <http://sandlake200.wordpress.com>. Visit us there directly or from a link on the Sand Lake Historical Society web site.

Meetings are held in the Town Hall. Next will be April 8th at 7PM. Ideas are invited.

See *The Advertiser* and this issue of *Historical Highlights* for information about the up-coming parade "Things That Go...." and a thank you for that service is in order.

1812 – 2012: celebrating is a privilege! — Nancy W. Davis, Co-chair

Gifts of history

Sand Lake Revisited is \$21.60 (inc. tax) and *Sand Lake*, is \$20.50 (inc. tax) with \$3.00 shipping for each copy. They are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office, from Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society (address below). 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 \$16.20 (inc. tax); Marvin Bubie's book *On the Trail of Henry Hudson and Our Dutch Heritage Through the Municipal Seals of New York State* is \$27.00 (inc. tax). 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 for \$8.25 (inc. tax), 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. Christmas ornaments with the trolley design cost \$12.00 (inc. tax). The note cards and ornaments are available at Town Clerk's office and from Chris Kronau 674-3050. Order information is available on our web site.

SLHS on the Internet

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

Our e-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Our constitution and bylaws are available at:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyslhb/bylaw0903revision.pdf>

Dues are due!

Members who have paid dues for 2011 have their membership card attached. If the date on the mailing label is 2010, your dues are due for the year June 1, 2010, to May 31, 2011. Thanks for completing the renewal found on the form with dinner reservation.

Nominating Committee report

Nominating committee members Christine Kronau, Patricia Robelotto and Annamae Hebert present the following names for trustees to be elected at our Annual Meeting on may 11th: Mary French (reelect second term), Annamae Hebert and Bonnie Hellum.

Remembering Frank Allen, who died February 8, 2010

Frank H. Allen did many things for the Town of Sand Lake. He was a member of the West Sand Lake Fire Company for 50 years and held many offices including president, recording secretary and fire police. In 2004 he was named Fireman of the Year. Frank was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was the Court Officer and in 1992 he was named Town of Sand Lake Citizen of the Month. He was a member of the Sand Lake Ambulance for over 30 years. January 1, 2004 was declared Frank Allen Day by the Town.

Frank was a Rensselaer County Auxiliary Police Officer and did everything from fingerprinting children, directing traffic, working at Butler Park and fairs and whatever else he was asked to do. Frank drove school bus for Averill Park School District for many years. During most of those years he drove the Alps Mountain area route. Any time anyone in the town needed a locksmith they were told to call Frank and he would be there. He was called the "unofficial mayor" of Sand Lake by many people. He was a frequent visitor to Dobys, Sunoco, Willowbrook, any other coffee spot and any building site in the town to stay current with important happenings. Everyone's day was brightened by his visits.

Frank earned many awards for all his volunteering. Among them are the Muscular Dystrophy Association Northeastern Personal Achievement Award in 1998 and the Good Citizen Award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in 1999.

He was a good husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, and he loved his town.

He was a great man!

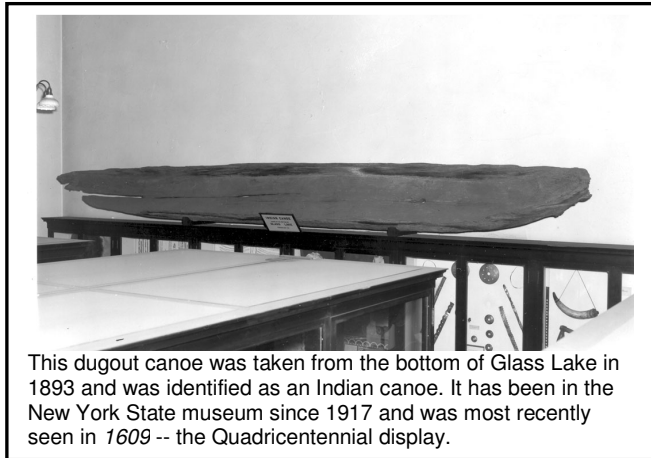


How we got from place to place over the years

When the Bicentennial Planning Committee's idea of "Sand Lake on Display - Things That Go... Vehicle Parade" took shape, it was thought important to share information on how transportation has evolved over the 200 hundred years of our Town's existence.

With *Historical Highlights* being issued the month before the May 8th parade, it was a natural to have a feature article on some highlights of transportation's progress.

Town Historian Judy Rowe has started us before 200 years with pioneers walking from Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts to the colony of New York to receive leases from the Patroon Van Rensselaer to settle families on the land and colonize the wilderness. Roads were paths or a road cut through the forest and as we shall see some were named turnpikes. Stumps still in the roads made them almost impassable. Travel depended on the weather. Dry season travel was best. Each home owner had to work on improving the road. Some of the roads were toll roads. A former tollgate house still stands at the junction of Old Route 66 and Miller Hill Road. Travel was mostly by foot. Until horses were easier to come by, oxen were used for plowing and pulling wagons with the driver walking behind. In winter time skis, snow shoes and sleighs were used because of the deep snow. Boots and shoes were made by family members or a local cobbler. Many times oxen were used to take the family to church. Water travel was by birch bark or the Indians' dug out canoes

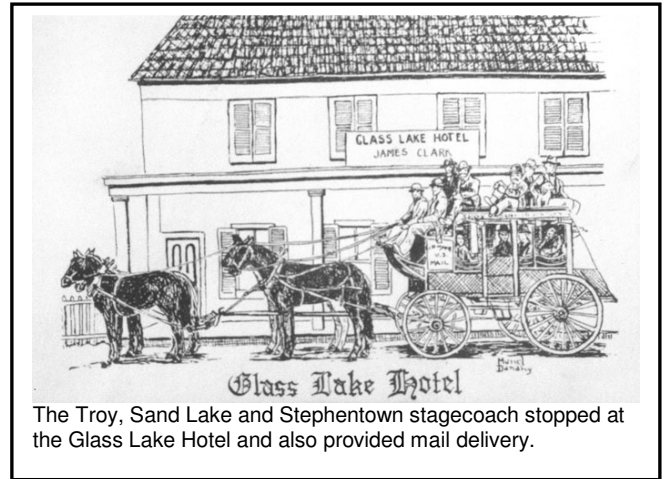


This dugout canoe was taken from the bottom of Glass Lake in 1893 and was identified as an Indian canoe. It has been in the New York State museum since 1917 and was most recently seen in 1609 -- the Quadricentennial display.

or small boats of rough lumber. Judy remembers that her father had a goat cart for lighter work about the farm and her grandmother used a goat cart to travel to a friend's house.

Reviews and Reminiscences: A Brief History of the Town of Sand Lake compiled by former Town Historian Madolyn Carpenter gives this information on early roads and stagecoach lines. The first turnpike through Sand Lake was from Albany to Berlin and was completed about 1752, and the Troy and Sand Lake Turnpike was finished around 1830. Soon after the Eastern Union

Turnpike was completed and went from the hamlet of

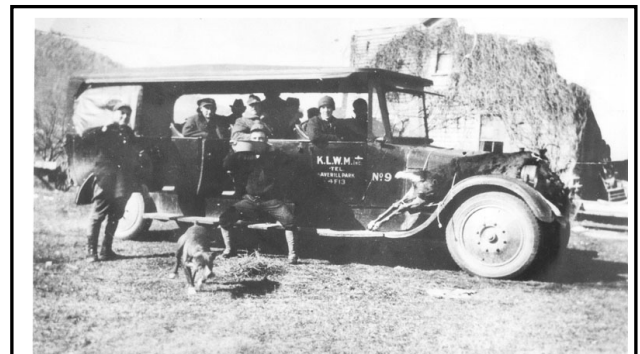


The Troy, Sand Lake and Stephentown stagecoach stopped at the Glass Lake Hotel and also provided mail delivery.

Sand Lake (now Averill Park) to Hancock, MA. A stagecoach ran on alternate days from Albany to Boston and used Eastern Union Turnpike. The driver would blow a large horn to announce his coming. People would run to meet the stage and question the driver for any news he could tell them.

The Troy-Sand Lake and Stephentown Stagecoach line made a daily run and delivered mail between Congress Street in Troy and Stephentown. In 1880 headquarters for horses and coaches were located in barns near Perry Funeral Chapel. Unless you were fortunate to own your own team and carriage, the only way of going to and from Troy was on the stage. It was an all day trip, leaving Averill Park about 7:30 AM, getting to Troy by 11AM and with the two-hour return trip arriving back at Averill Park about 6PM. The Stage would then continue on through Alps to Stephentown.

In 1849 a plank road was begun from the eastside of the Hudson River opposite Albany through the town of Greenbush on the most eligible route to the Glass Factory Village in the Town of Sand Lake. The manufacture of glass begun there in 1804 was one of the largest industries in New York State.



After the trolley stopped operation in 1925, Edward Knapp, Willis Larkin Sr., Chester Wendell, and Samuel McNary began the KLWM Bus Company which ran from Troy to Glass Lake. Later it was sold to the United Traction Company, which continued hourly bus trips for several years, until auto usage became so affordable that the bus service stopped for lack of passengers.

The Wynants Kill: a small stream, but mighty by Robert J. Lilly cites that Clifford Hastings of West Sand Lake was the first person to use the Wynants Kill to generate electricity and was plant engineer for the Troy and New England Railway which began operating in 1895. The trolley ran between Albia and Averill Park until 1925. Trolley transportation not only had freight cars but also provided access to the seven lakes in Town and earned Crystal Lake the nickname of Upstate Coney Island. After 1925 the KLWM bus service (see previous page) ran from Troy to Glass Lake and was later sold to United Traction Company.

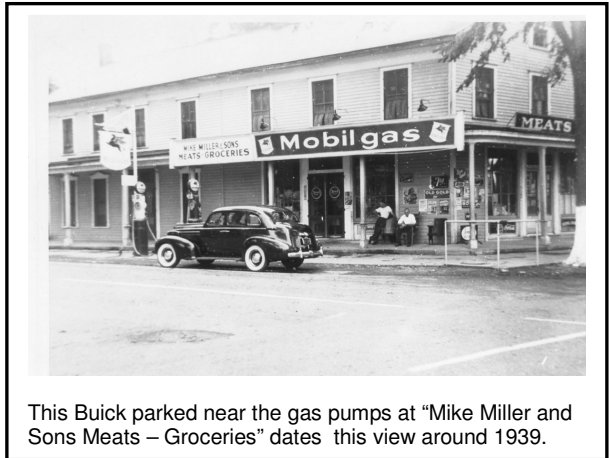
Now view with us some *Sand Lake and Sand Lake Revisited* photos showing how yesteryears' vehicles were used to get us from place to place. ***Then on May 8th come to our Things That Go...Vehicle Parade and see firsthand all the ways our Town's businesses use their means of transportation to bring, carry, move, and transfer their services to us TODAY!!***



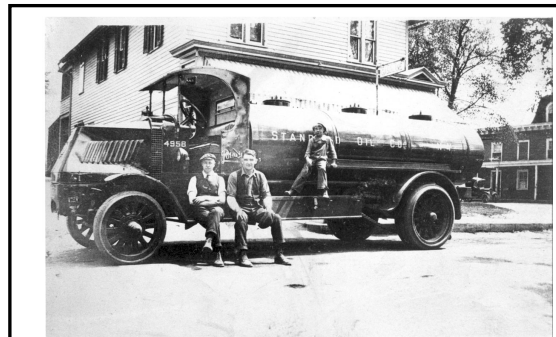
The motorcar (possibly a mid-teens Cadillac touring car) contrasts with the horse-drawn hay wagon. Who would win if both were at top speed?



Cora and John Taylor standing in front of their house on Johnnycake Lane are about to take a ride in their "surrey with the fringe on top."



This Buick parked near the gas pumps at "Mike Miller and Sons Meats - Groceries" dates this view around 1939.



Adam "Mindy" Legenbauer is seated without a cap on the running board of the Standard Oil Company Mack truck in front of Stout's Hardware Store around 1920. It became the Legenbauer Gas and Oil Company headquarters in 1966.

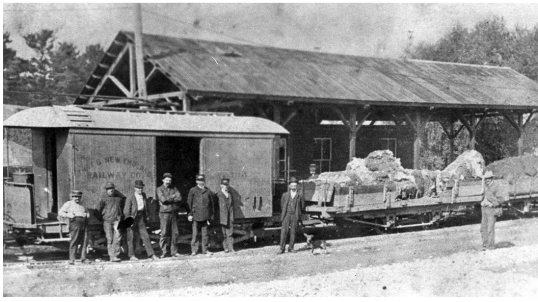


 THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN ELECTRONICS

Driving around town in this 1960 Ford Falcon Ranchero pick up truck gave significant information on A.K. Wolfe's wares as well as being featured on his postcard.



"Over there! Over there!!" During WWI the Army would have had this truck for transporting supplies and man power.



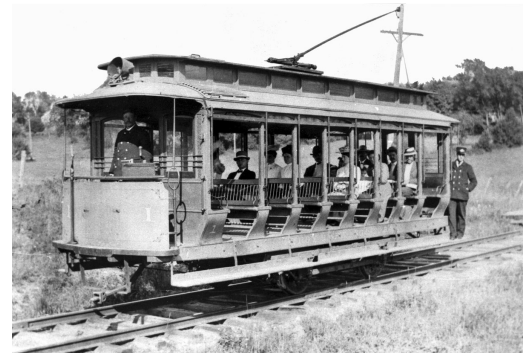
This Troy and New England Railway car and freight trailer with its load of shoddy (reclaimed wool) would be on its way to mills in Sand Lake. At Faith Mills it would begin the process of making long johns.



Willis D. Larkin Sr. standing writes on this postcard, "Just started on our first trip with our new hearse. How do you like it?"



After the trolley stopped operation in 1925, Edward Knapp, Willis Larkin Sr., Chester Wendell, and Samuel McNary began the KLWM Bus Company which ran from Troy to Glass Lake. Later it was sold to the United Traction Company, which continued hourly bus trips for several years, until auto usage became so affordable that the bus service stopped for lack of passengers.



In summertime an open car was used on the Troy and New England Railway. As many as five cars would be in tandem when the demand for travel to lakes in Sand Lake reached its peak.

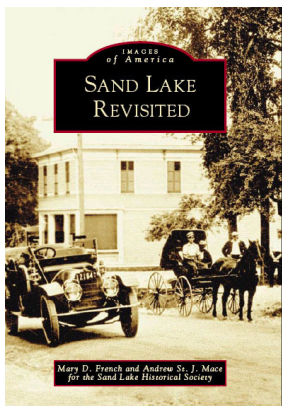
Look for more and larger pictures of *How we got from place to place over the years* later this spring on our web site!



George Dobert has a load of charcoal ready for a trip to Troy or Albany. Customers over the years have included iron mills, stove foundries, blacksmith shops, hotels, homes, Hudson River boats and the local Glass factory.



This horse-drawn pumper with a 45-horsepower gasoline motor was purchased in 1911. It could throw a stream of water over the tallest church steeple in the town. The introduction of gasoline power was a major advancement for the Averill Park and Sand Lake Fire Company.



<http://sandlakehistory.org>

E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Historical Highlights

Mary French, Editor

Andrew Mace, Publisher



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sand Lake Historical Society

Post Office Box 492

West Sand Lake, New York 12196



Sand Lake Historical Society
Membership Application/Renewal
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 3, 2010, 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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Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation

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