



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 37, Number 2

Winter 2011

## From the president

I am a bit awed by the fact this issue will be dated Winter 2011. I still have a paper weight for entering the year 2000 and the *twenty-first century*. Ten years have gone by Sooooo Fast!!! Let's look back and review highlights of the Historical Society's programs and events of the last decade. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! Everyone, who participated in them ☺☺ — *Mary D. French, president*

### The Twenty-first Century's First Decade ~ 2000 – 2010

#### 2000

- † Very noteworthy is that *Historical Highlights* has had three issues published each year by Andy Mace.
- † The Averill Park and Sand Lake Fire Company No.1 published their booklet on 100 years of service.
- † Remembering Crooked Lake House was celebrated on site.
- † Al Hayner shared over 40 years of *Sand Lake Advertiser* history (now *The Advertiser*).

#### 2001

- † Mike St Germain, Scoutmaster for Troop #526, completed a review of 75 years of the Town's Boy Scout history.
- † *Images of America SAND LAKE*, coauthored by Mary D. French & Robert J. Lilly, was published.

#### 2002

- † Robert J. Lilly was honored for his work as editor of *Historical Highlights* and spearheading projects of libraries, schools, town supervisors and mills.
- † Zion's United Church of Christ celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### 2003

- † *Historical Highlights* featured the bells of Sand Lake and centennial celebration of West Sand Lake Grange #949.
- † St Henry's celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- † Heritage Day was held inviting persons to bring historic pictures, letters, deeds, Bible records for scanning. (Another Heritage Day was held in **2005**.)
- † An Old Time Country Dance and Social was hosted at Ron Berti's and Barbara Neu's historic Knowlson House. We were invited there for our Christmas Program and have enjoyed their hospitality for our December meeting *each succeeding year*.

#### 2004

- † Averill Park School District turned 75.
- † Antiques Appraisal Days were begun and have been held *in each succeeding year*.

- † *Historical Highlights* featured Historical markers; the Society has provided markers for Faith Mills, Sand Lake Baptist Church, Glass Lake and matching funds for the Cotton House marker.
- † A Drive Yourself Tour was held in conjunction with Rensselaer County Historical Day.

## 2005

- † *Historical Highlights* featured 25 years of Tremont calendars 1961 – 1986.
- † *The Wynants Kill: a small stream but mighty* authored by Robert J. Lilly and edited by Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris Jr. made its debut.

## 2006

- † Historical artist **Len Tantillo's** program was cosponsored with the Town of Sand Lake.
- † Each Rensselaer County town historian received the Hart Cluett Award. Congratulations to our Town Historian Judy Rowe.
- † Crooked Lake House was reopened by Paul and Dawn Vincent.

## 2007

- † *Images of America: Sand Lake Revisited*, coauthored by Mary D. French & Andrew St.J. Mace, was published.

## 2008

- † Meetings to plan for the Town's bicentennial celebration in 2012 were begun.
- † Cooperative effort for New York State Archival Month with the Town historian featured a display on Underground Railroad in October.
- † *Historical Highlights* featured Prof Elmer Stahlman.
- † Certificate of Appreciation for Historical Restoration of Variety Store was presented to Robert & Renee Phaneuf and Miller & Stephanie Young.
- † Certificate of appreciation for Historical Restoration of Knowlson House was presented to Ronald Berti & Barbara Neu.

## 2009

- † Historical calendar celebrating Sand Lake Historical Society's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary was printed.
- † Co-sponsored Bicentennial 2009 Celebration with Judy Rowe presenting Rensselaer (Glass House) Village and Glass Lake Glass.
- † *Historical Highlights* featured El Roy Face - Sand Lake's Baseball Claim to Fame.

## 2010

- † Sand Lake Kiwanis celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- † The Sand Lake Center for the Arts, celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- † Our Historical Society sign was displayed on a Civil War cannon float during the "Sand Lake on Display Things That Go... Vehicle Parade" sponsored by the Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee.
- † Co-sponsored Bicentennial 2010 Celebration with program on Troy & New England Railway by Chuck Viens and a scale model of Trolley No. 6 by Ross Sterantino.
- † Cooperative effort for New York State Archives Month with the Town historian – display on Troy & New England Railway and model of Trolley No. 6.

## Gifts

- † The Historical Society has been generous with gifts for restoration to the Sand Lake Center for the Arts, Sand Lake Baptist Church, Veteran's Memorial project and Cotton House project.
- Memorial Scholarships are given to two graduating seniors each year.

## About H.H. Butler



Butler's sign on west side of grey barn on route 43 near current Averill Park Central School garage.

**BUTLER'S**  
**FAMILY CLOTHIERS(?) Since 1893(?)**  
**TROY CASH ????????**  
**AND**  
**ALBANY CARRY(?) ????????**

Can anyone "fill in the blanks" above? Does anyone have any other, perhaps clearer, pictures of the barn? Please let us know!

To begin with the year 2006, requests for information about H.H. Butler printed in *The Advertiser*, received responses from residents who kindly responded. Requests continue.

Who is responsible for Butler Park on Gettle Road

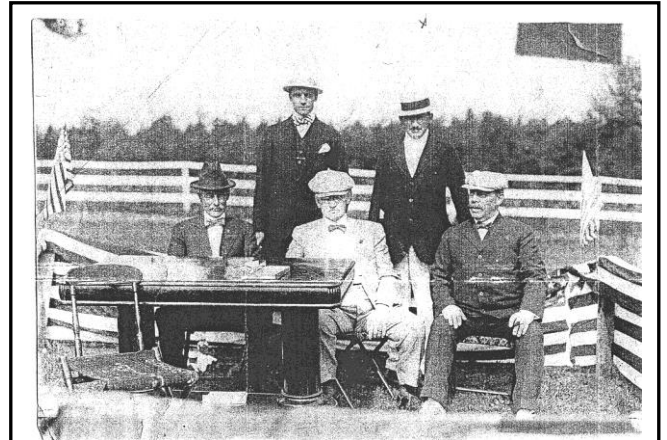
in the Town of Sand Lake? Who was H.H. Butler of the sign on the west side of the grey barn seen along Route 43 near the now Averill Park Central School bus garage? What about the clothing store which was advertised in that sign?

Visits to Judy Rowe, Sand Lake Town Historian, Troy Public Library, Rensselaer County Historical Society, residents, and computer research, answer some questions. Responses by Elsa Progozy, Judy Breselor and Don Oliver are appreciated; Wesley Miller, Clare Radz and Michael St. Germain as well. Cousin Marilyn G. Malik reports having a Butler dairy milk bottle.

About 1945, the sign on the grey barn took shape in my mind, as I sat in the back seat of our Father's car riding home from Troy or West Sand Lake or Waterford to Averill Park or passed Bon Acre Farm aboard the United Traction

Company bus before the hill with ragged stone face. I miss that landmark. Lost by fire!

Conversation and reminiscence with Michael St. Germain at Taborton Fair 2006 was a childhood memory taken to adult interest. The carriage stored in a Butler barn! Curiosity expanding farming, business, horses and philanthropy are revealed in answers. Others will comment or add or suggest with reading of it.

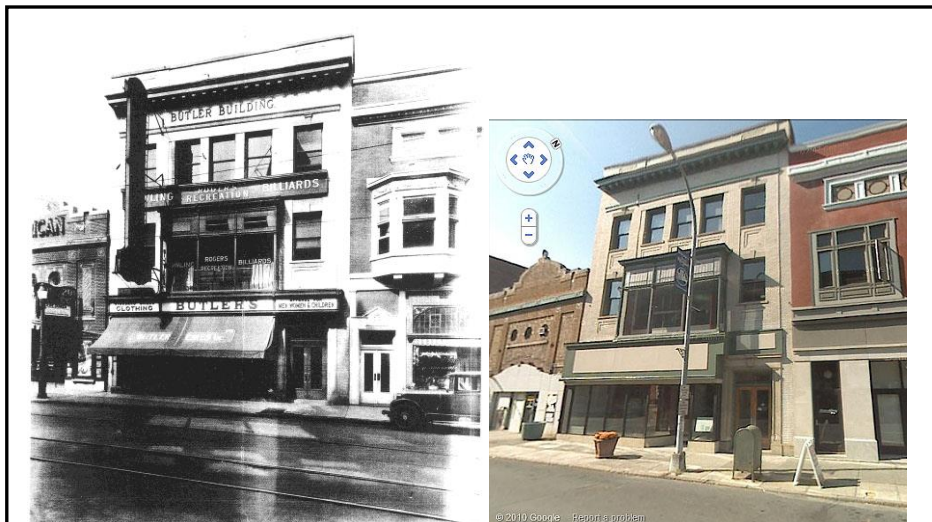


Photograph at H.H. Butler's farm Averill Park NY circa 1910 lists Horse Show Committee of Troy Sportsmen for a benefit of Rensselaer County Chapter of the Red Cross - First Fund Drive. Standing: Edward A. Wachter, H.H. Butler. Seated: Edward Sims, Joseph Leggett, Archie Phelps of Watervliet. (William T. Shyne not present for picture)

Hyman Harry Butler resided in Averill Park, Troy and New York City. The summer home facing Crystal Lake yet stands. That location brings closeness to Gettle Road and Butler Park bearing his name. The park is a portion of the 150 acre farm known as Pinehurst. A deed for the farmhouse is dated 1857. Hay was stored in the aforementioned barn. Nearby Bon Acre Farm in 1934 - 1935 boarded a horse owned by Butler. A race track was part of the farm. Mr. Oliver told of fallen bleachers near

the track in the mid 1930s. The track location, estimated, was at the present sports field of the high school.

Don added the remembrance of sleeping in the tack room and working on the farm. Shetland ponies were boarded. Two barns existed with the farm house. He recalled two families of tenant farmers, and two employees, Doris and "Gimp," who were paid \$4-\$5



**Then and now: BUTLER'S APPAREL FOR MEN WOMEN & CHILDREN.** The Butler Building on River Street is still there between the former Paul's Restaurant and the former American (later the "infamous" Cinema Art) Theater. Do you see the trolley tracks in the first picture? ("Now" picture from Google Street View)

dollars a week. Corn was a crop. Dairy was part of his work. The milk house contained a trough of water where 40 quart cans of milk cooled. A busy day of farm work for a lad!

Earlier in 1920, William Leavenworth, grandfather of Clare L. Radz, lived and worked on the farm with his large family for a few months caring for horses. Horses worked the farm.

Raising and racing race horses, having been noted, it is worth reporting that one of Butler's horses, Exciter's Brother, came in first in New Lebanon, New York, July 4, 1931. Newspaper items also noted on two occasions the horse "Southern Belle owned by H.H. Butler of New York, in reserve."

Quite a different matter is the newspaper report in *New York Times* October 24, 1948. "An agriculture school for Jewish men and women who plan to live in Israel has been opened on a 150-acre farm near Averill Park. H.H. Butler of New York City said he had given the farm to the Palestine foundation Youth Movement, Inc. and that six of an expected fifty students already had arrived. The school, Mr. Butler added, is one of five being operated to prepare Jews for a new life in Israel."

Butler's in the Butler Building was a clothing store in Troy on River Street between Paul's Restaurant and the American Theater, featuring apparel for men, women, and children. Sid Gallant remembered his mother-in-law Harriet Bailey, worked there. Fifty-three retail stores coast-to-coast are reported owned by Butler.

Recent excitement spurred this writing. At St. Henry's Church, Jeanne Petropol and Liz Turner told of the daughter-in-law of Mr. Butler who lives in Manhattan. Marion Butler with her husband ran a private school in Manhattan. Her husband was Leon.

Glad for the opportunity to add to the "story" of that sign on the barn. — *Nancy W. Davis, October 2010*

## Upcoming programs and events

- † On **December 14th** at 6:30 p.m. 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. Please also bring nonperishable food items for Doors of Hope. Guest speaker David Pitkin will give us an update on his latest book *New England Ghosts*. Program title is "Ghost Stories from eastern New York and New England. Timothy W. Komdat will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for historical restoration of Perry - Komdat Funeral Chapel and Timothy and Mary Komdat for historical restoration of their residence.
- † **January 11, 2011**, will be "Local History of Funeral and Burial Customs" presented by Tim Komdat of Perry-Komdat Funeral Chapel.

- † **February 8, 2011** — Joe Ferrannini of Gravestone Matters will present a program on care of gravestones.
- † **March 8, 2011** — Dr. Ed Landing, New York State Paleontologist and Paleontology Curator at the State Museum, will speak on "From tiny to tall: colonizing the land-community evolution and the discovery of Earth's oldest liverworts and trees from eastern New York."
- † **April 12, 2011** — Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch will present "The Life and Writing of Edith Wharton (1862-1937) and The Mount, her house and garden at Lenox, MA."
- † **May 10, 2011** — Annual meeting (location to be announced) will be a presentation by Paul & Mary Liz Stewart on the Underground Railroad.
- † **June 14, 2011** — Glenn Hankle, president of Esquatak Historical Society, will speak on the history of banjo and have a sing-a-long.

Unless otherwise specified, programs 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!

## 2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee Update

Enjoying the memories of September 18<sup>th</sup>, Charles Viens' PowerPoint presentation of the Troy & New England Railway from the booklet by Charles Viens and Sanford Young and narrated by Mary French., the scale model of Trolley No. 6 by Ross Sterantino and the dinner. Dishes washed and put away! Ready for the next event!

Salute and Scoot presented by The Fitness Coach Alan Blond on October 17<sup>th</sup> was greeted by good weather for a race. Grateful for the runners, walkers, family and friends, Sand Lake Kiwanians and Alan Blond for this 8<sup>th</sup> Annual competition, the third in support of the Bicentennial Planning Committee (BPC). Winners of the running race are Chris Shaw and Joellen Ernst. Congratulations!

Sil Martinage, a guest at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, explained and showed before and after photos of damage and improvement to some grave markers at Sand Lake Union Cemetery. A plea for needed funding was included in this report.

Nancy Dunn is "hot on the trail" of marching bands for the parade August 25, 2012.

Suggestions to Nancy can be sent to the Sand Lake Town address: PO Box 273, Sand Lake, NY 12153 attention Bicentennial Planning Committee

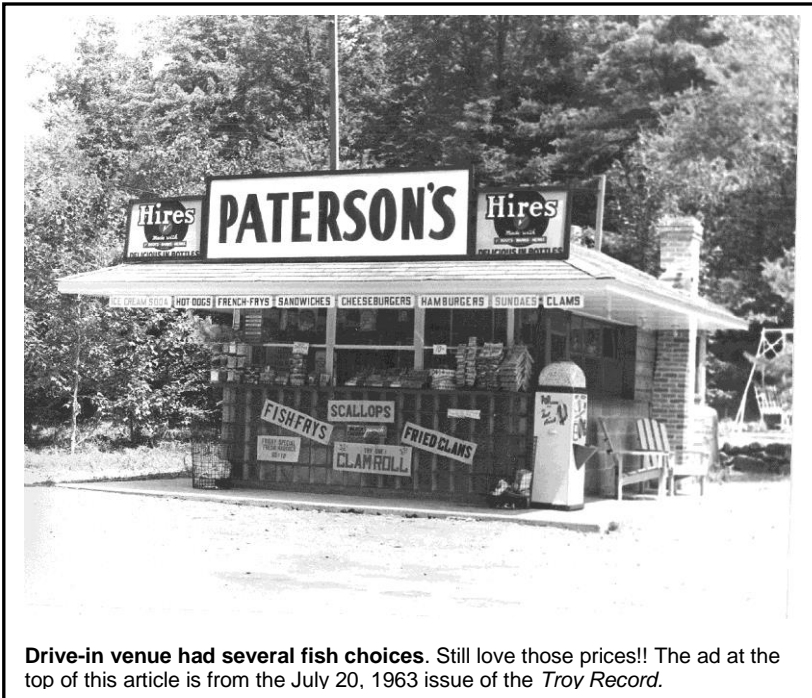
Thank you! — *Co-chair Nancy W. Davis*

## Paterson's Restaurant

"Get Your Kicks  
On Route 66"  
AT  
**PATERSON'S  
RESTAURANT**  
DINING ROOM—DRIVE-IN  
and COUNTER SERVICE  
"A Good Place To Eat"  
Opposite Glass Lake

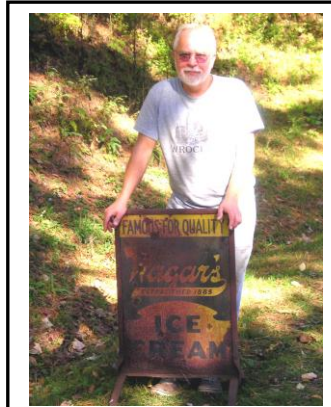
Paterson's Restaurant was located across from current French Way on route 43. Photos show it with an outside order venue. Nancy Davis remembers being a waitress there circa 1954 and serving customers at

booths inside. She also recalled a health inspector who made a quick visit, leaving. Everyone in the store cleaned everything as fast as possible for his anticipated return, which never happened.



Drive-in venue had several fish choices. Still love those prices!! The ad at the top of this article is from the July 20, 1963 issue of the *Troy Record*.

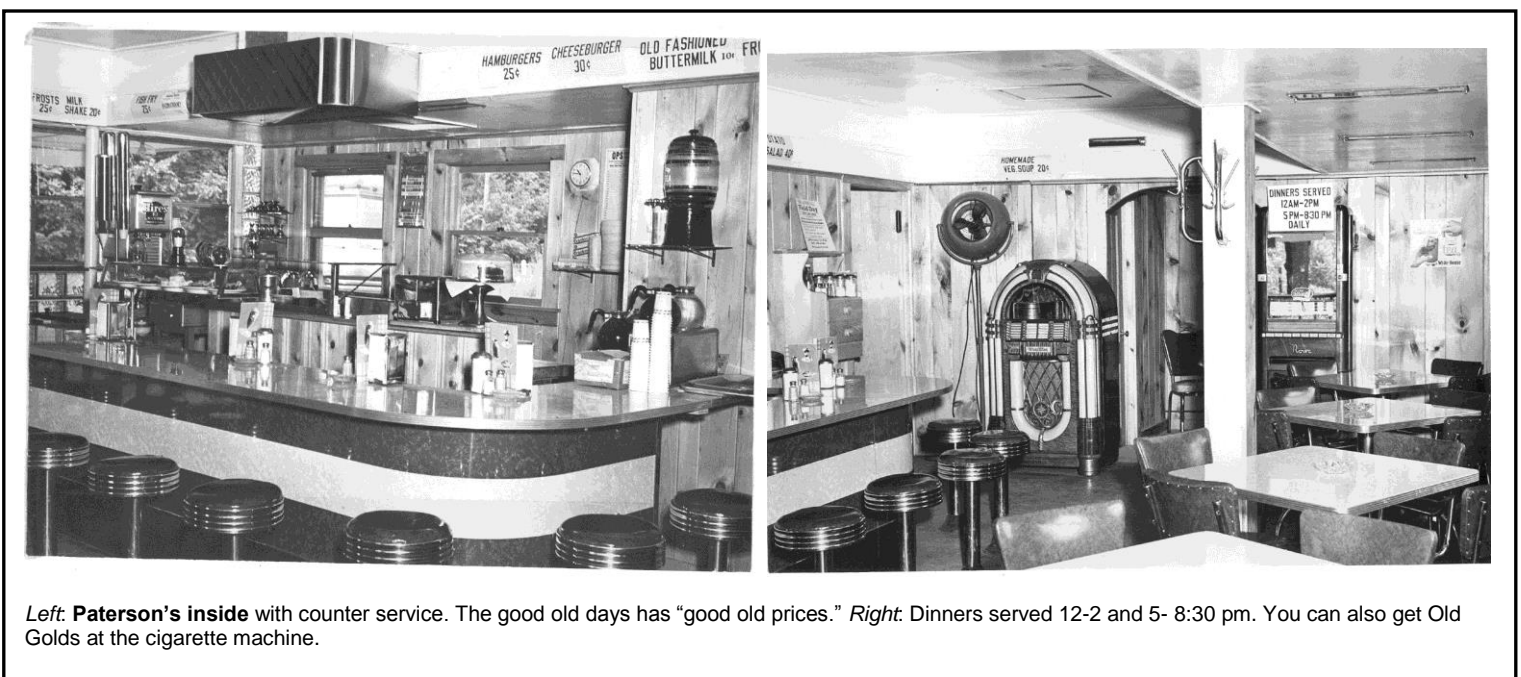
On the back of one of the pictures was the name, Frank Lukovitz. Contacting him got a rave review for fish fries, hot dogs and shakes. "What a nice man he was! The place was always spotless, and I recall how meticulous he was." Hal Shoemaker worked there and one day said he wouldn't be at work but then did show up. Hal was surprised to see Mr. Paterson doing the sweeping and cleaning up!



Jacek Turbiaz shows this Wagar's ice cream sign from Paterson's. It has weathered the elements for over 50 years. His wife Stasia reports, "You should see it now that Jacek has restored it. It's beautiful."

We received the pictures showing the Paterson property prior to his purchase from Jacek Turbiaz. Jacek's construction and design ability have resulted in a veritable showplace. Frank Lukovitz added, "I too admire the job the new owner did on the grounds."

We would be happy to receive any remembrances other may have of Paterson's.



Left: Paterson's inside with counter service. The good old days has "good old prices." Right: Dinners served 12-2 and 5- 8:30 pm. You can also get Old Golds at the cigarette machine.



Before (left): Several disorderly, unreadable pieces. After (right): A whole, stable, readable monument.

## Sand Lake Union Cemetery

The Bicentennial Planning Committee has cemeteries as one of the projects on its agenda. When Sil Martinage gave his report on recent work done at Sand Lake Union Cemetery and the Cemetery Board's desire to repair grave markers in the older section where relatives are no longer living, the agenda for our project began to take shape.

Sil was also asked to come to the Historical Society Trustees' meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. His presentation received favorable action with the Historical Society donating \$500.00 for gravestone repairs. From the before and after picture of just one of the gravestones below, the results of the repairs done by Joe Ferrannini of Gravestone Matters are EXCELLENT!!

Wearing the hat of president of the Historical Society and an appointed member of the Bicentennial Planning committee, I'm asking each of you reading this article to consider making a donation for the repair of gravestones in the Town's most historic cemetery, Sand Lake Union. Cost of repairs are estimated at \$100.00 - \$300.00 each. Donations may be endorsed to Sand Lake Union Cemetery and sent to Cemetery Board treasurer Audrey Trupia PO Box 263 Sand Lake, NY 12153. Thank you for helping to make a significant difference in viewing information on the monuments of persons who have completed their historical life's journey. — *Mary D. French*

## 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 (including tax) and \$3.00 shipping, for each copy.

- † *Sand Lake*, our first book, is available for \$20.50 (including 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, of "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 (including 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 (including 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, 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 (including tax). Just in time for Christmas are the ornaments (see photo) for \$12.00 (including tax). The note cards and ornaments are available from Town clerk's office or Mary French. Order information is also available on our web site.

## SLHS on the Internet

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

Our e-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)

Our constitution and bylaws are available at:

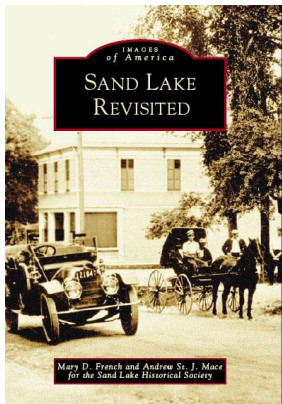
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyslhs/bylaw0903revision.pdf)

[~nyslhs/bylaw0903revision.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyslhs/bylaw0903revision.pdf)

## 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 2010 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.



<http://sandlakehistory.org>

**E-mail: [sandlakehistory@aol.com](mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com)**

Historical Highlights

*Mary French, Editor*

*Andrew Mace, Publisher*



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Sand Lake Historical Society

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West Sand Lake, New York 12196



**Sand Lake Historical Society**  
Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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



**Sand Lake Historical Society**  
Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership: Join / Renew**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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