



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 37, Number 3

Spring 2011

From the president

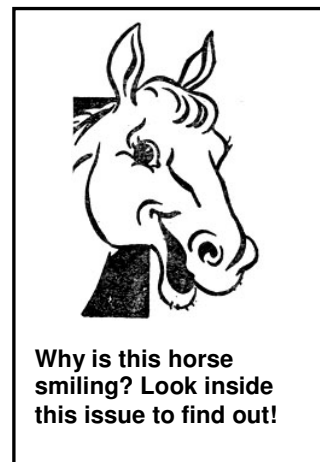
- † Pastor Bob Loesch assisted in drafting a letter of endorsement for the Sand Lake Center for the Arts to accompany their request for a Greenway Grant. We are humbly proud to think it assisted in their receiving the grant.
- † ➤ To help with the Bicentennial Planning Committee's project on improving Sand Lake Union Cemetery, the Society donated \$500.00 towards repair of gravestones in the older part of the cemetery, which have no family to care for them.
- † ➤ Be sure to check the turkey dinner and Underground Railroad Annual Meeting in May and the Strawberry social and sing-a-long for June
- † ➤ This September's meeting will be a change of date to join again with the Bicentennial Planning Committee's 2011 celebration on **September 17th**. (See program publicity)
- † ➤ We say thank you to Ross French who has served two terms (6 years) as trustee and must step down for a year before being eligible to being considered again as a trustee.
- † ➤ Scholarship Awards of \$500.00 to two students who excel in history will be given in memory of Marilyn Hayner, Kathleen Fasco, Rev. Robert Trost and Alice Tiff.

With the Town Bicentennial gaining momentum, we are getting more and more involved. We hope you are, too!!!! — *Mary D. French, president*

Upcoming programs

- † ***On May 10, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., our Annual Meeting will be at Zion's United Church of Christ at Taborton.*** We will be served their famous turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, dressing, mixed vegetables, salad and homemade pie. Paul and Mary Liz Stewart will present a program on the Underground Railroad. See reservation form in this issue and return it by May 2nd. Cost is \$15.00.
- † ***June 14, 2011: Glenn Hankle, president of Esquatak Historical Society, will speak on the history of banjo and have a sing-a-long.*** Refreshments will be an ice cream strawberry social.
- † Again this year we will have a ***combined meeting with the Bicentennial Planning Committee for a 2011 celebration.*** It will be a covered dish dinner at the Church of the Covenant, United Methodist on ***September 17th***. Wally Stock, a musician and historian for East Nassau, will perform Civil War era music on an old square piano and add anecdotes. Bring your dish to share at 5:15 p.m. The program will begin at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Your cost is your covered dish to share.

Unless otherwise specified, programs are at 7:30pm at Sand Lake Baptist Church, Route 43 in Averill Park. Watch *The Advertiser* for each month's program. We look forward to seeing you there.



2012 Bicentennial Planning Committee Update

You can imagine the lively meetings as celebrating events for our Town's 200th birthday are planned. The Red Cross Blood Drive is repeated. The Doll Parade and Children's Tea Party with a Victorian theme, on Library Day, June 25th brings a garden club and 4-H to help. The Children's Activity Book expands with contributions including MOSCOW and word-find type puzzles. The Things That Go... Vehicle Parade will be in cooperation with the Sand Lake Kiwanis Summerfest parade on July 2nd. An Essay Contest for 4th and 7th graders is in the works! And Civil War Encampment on October 1st and 2nd !! Thanks to John McEvelly and Mark Bodnar for information and direction. A combined Civil War Sesquicentennial event scheduled with the Sand Lake Historical Society for September 17th features musician and historian Wally Stock of Brainard.

We will do our best to inform you of plans. Our invitation to prepare and participate has been sent. If you did not receive the letter, tell us your address for your copy.

The next meeting is April 21st. With everyone's participation we will have a great birthday celebration.
— 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 "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 Buble'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 Mary French (674-5710). 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/~nyslhs/bylaw0903revision.pdf>

Dues are due!

Members who paid dues for 2011 have their membership card attached. Time flies! Now if the date on the mailing label is 2011, your dues are due for the year June 1, 2011, to May 31, 2012. Thanks for completing the renewal found on the form with dinner reservation.

Nominating Committee report

The nominating committee of Mary French, Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch and Andrew Mace present the following names for trustees to be elected at our Annual Meeting on May 10, 2011: Gloria Waldron Huckle, Barbara Neu, Joyce and Robert Baum and John McEvelly.

Sand Lake Association for Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves

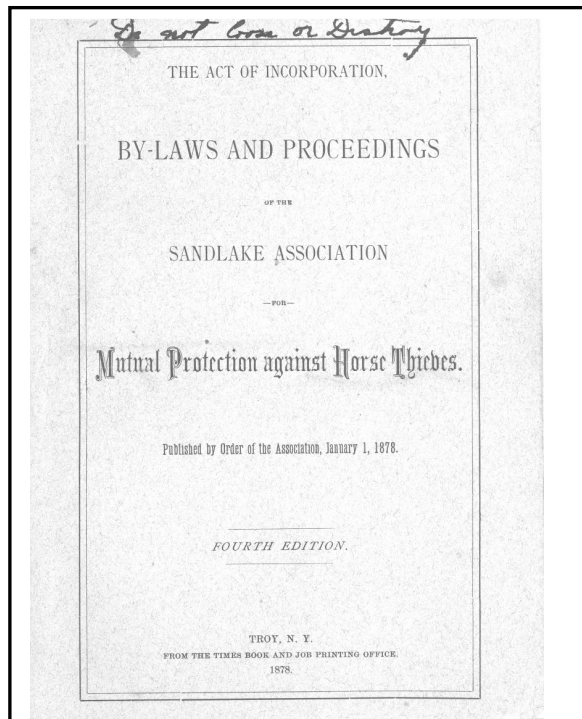
For a complete story of the Sand Lake Association for Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves you will want to visit our web site <http://sandlakehistory.org> (click on *Historical Highlights* and then *Protection Against Horse Thieves*) for Mary Pat Hart's article from *Historical Highlights* Fall 1998 on the Association's incorporation and several stolen horses and their recovery in 1863 and 1865. Also look for our Bicentennial Historical Update for April in *The Advertiser*, which will be the article Arthea Gibbs wrote for *The Courier* on November 19, 1987.

You may need to help younger readers understand "Sheriff Cornell's mansion at Troy" is the local jail and being a "graduate for Sing Sing or Clinton" would be the thief's final prison destination.

The Association has not met for the last two years. The Association's artifacts and ephemera have been turned over to the Town of Sand Lake Historian's office by Robert Shuey, who has put much of the minutes in a digital format. Is there anyone willing to "Call a Meeting"?

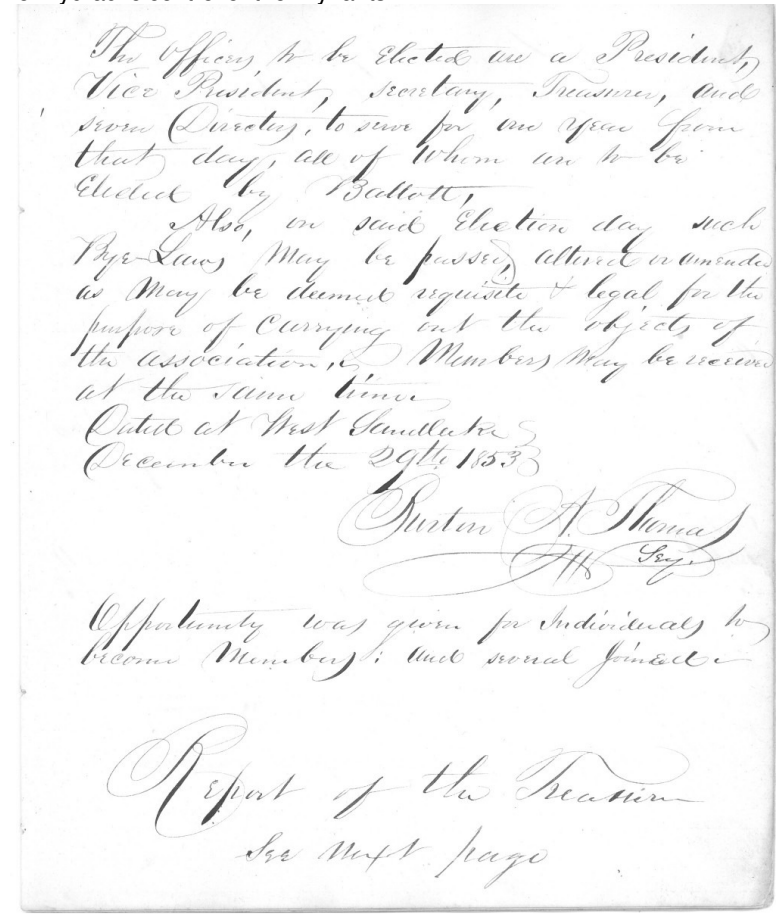
Until then Come with us now as we share some memorabilia of the Association's 163 years of history....

Another Look at the Sand Lake Association for Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves



BY-LAWS AND PROCEEDINGS Fourth Edition - January 1, 1878. This booklet contains minutes and treasurer's reports. Also listed are the names of members by towns: Sand Lake had 129 members; North Greenbush 84; East Greenbush 85; Schodack 72; Poestenkill 43; Brunswick 5 and Troy 2. The cost of printing 500 copies of this 42-page booklet was \$63.00. The seventh edition of 1910 is the last copy in the files.

Burton A. Thomas, Secretary. On the 29th of December 1853, in beautiful handwriting Secretary Burton A. Thomas reports the call to the meeting, the officers and seven directors to be elected by ballot and changes to bylaws as needed. The *Sand Lake* book on page 20 has the mural of Thomas's house painted on the exterior wall of the Lake Pharmacy in 1976 for the bicentennial celebration. Burton Thomas engineered the building of the Burden Lakes and enlarging Glass Lake for hydraulic control of the Wynantskill.



One Hundred Years Old. This picture celebrated the Association's hundredth year of existence. The first annual meeting was January 1850. Also of historical note is the wood stove heating Trinity Lutheran Church. And someone is keeping his hat warm on top of the stove. ☺ ☺

St Petersburg Times

We Have With Us Today—1-23-54

Clarence A. Wicks, West Sand Lake, N.Y., treasurer of Sand Lake Assn., for the Mutual Protection Against Horse Thieves, one of the country's oldest organizations, which last week held its 105th annual meeting and social gathering at West Sand Lake . . . organization formed in the days when it was necessary to use vigilance against horse thieves, says our visitor . . . it took its last action against such a thief in 1912 . . . present membership is 82 with 43 horses . . . It's customary to pass around the cigars at these reunions, and Treasurer Wicks, who was re-elected, saddened at being absent, sat down and smoked one all by himself, thinking about the fellas up there in Sand Lake.

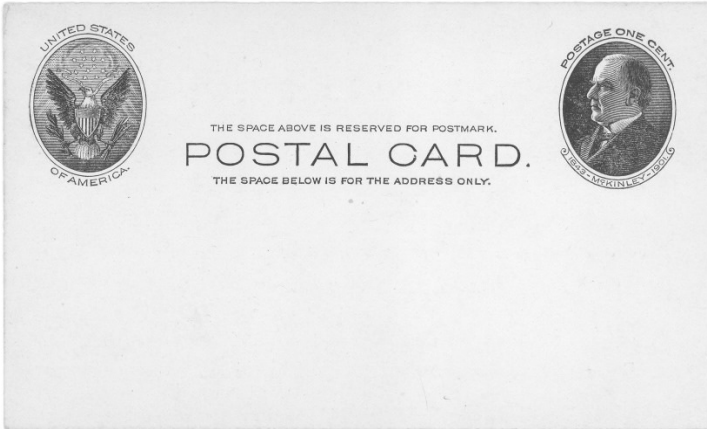
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Carl Wicks – St Petersburg Times. Association Treasurer Carl Wicks wintering in Florida, made news in the St Petersburg Times on January 23, 1954. He smoked a cigar, which was customarily given out at the Association's annual meeting, "all by himself". It also noted the last action for a stolen horse was in 1912 and that it was the Association's 105th year of operation.

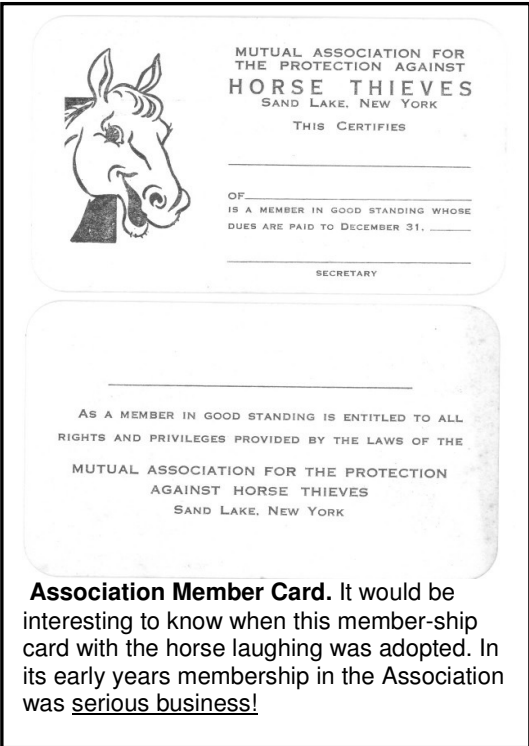
OFFICE OF THE
Sandlake Horse Thief Association

Mr. _____
Your fine of 25 cents you are hereby requested to pay to
Fayette Thomas, Treasurer, West Sandlake, within 60 days from
the date hereof. Neglect on your part forfeits your membership.
FAYETTE THOMAS, Secretary.

Dated, West Sandlake, N. Y., _____ 190



Postcard for fines. This postcard had to have been printed after 1901 because it has McKinley's death of 1901 noted for the one cent postage. Fines of 20¢ were levied for not attending the annual meeting and an added sum of 5¢ at the end of 30 days; at the end of 60 days, membership ceased and there was no protection or benefits from the Association.



Association Member Card. It would be interesting to know when this membership card with the horse laughing was adopted. In its early years membership in the Association was serious business!

Membership Status	Name	Date
Expelled	William J. Snyder	June 9 1849
Expelled	Samuel O. Szymans	" 19 1852
Withdrawn	Barnard Snyder	Aug. 26 1857
Withdrawn	Peter M. Snyder	Jan 12 1858
Deceased	John Sheer	" 10 1860
Withdrawn	Henry Snyder	Oct. 10 1862
Expelled	Matthias V. Snyder	Jan 13 1863
Expelled	John J. Siler	Dec. 10 1863
Deceased	Hiram B. Shantz	Jan 12 1864
Withdrawn	William F. Snook	" 8 1867
Deceased	Charles Schall	Dec. 27 "
	Jacob Sheer	Jan 12 1868
Suspended	Edwin F. Siler	June 11 1870
Deceased	Andrew Schafel	" 31 "
Withdrawn	Washington Snyder	" " "
	Samuel Sharp	Apr. 12 "
	Jacob W. Snook	Jan. 10 1871
Deceased	David C. Siler	" " "
Deceased	John S. Sharp	Apr. 17 "
Withdrawn	John W. Snook	June 8 "
	Wm. C. Shantz	Jan. 9 1872
Deceased	Philip Schaller	Aug. 24 "
	Henry Sharp	Jan 9 1873

Membership Notebook. This page from a large notebook begins with members from the Association's founding year of 1849 and in the margin area what happened to them. The letter in the upper right hand corner starts the page of members with last names beginning with "S". William J. Snyder who joined on June 9, 1849, was expelled January 14, 1886. Two others were expelled and one was suspended. Others are noted as withdrawn or deceased without a specific date. Membership was serious business!

West Sand Lake Jan 3rd 1884.
 Association
 In my hands
 on Deposit
 Jan 1st 83 \$503.70
 Jan 6th 83 Draw out to pay
 Expenses of reward and
 search of Morris's Horse \$194.64
 Jan 15th 83 Deposited 66.77
 July 83 Interest 5.30
 Jan 84 Interest 5.50
 Leaving balance now in
 Bank on Deposit of \$380.65
 Albert P. Thomas
 Treas.


Reward and Search of Morris's (sic) Horse. In the 1884 report of Treasurer Albert P. Thomas is the amount of \$194.64 for the stolen horse of Schodack resident John H. Morris. Included in this sum would be \$50 for the recovery of the horse, \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the thief as well as payment for the riders who went on the search. According to by-laws riders could ride "not more than 75 miles from the village of West Sand Lake; nor shall he go in such pursuit more that five days." However if a rider found a track of a stolen horse or thief, "he could ride at the most ten days". Minutes of the Association noted, "The thief, a mere youth, was arrested, tried and sentenced for one year to the House of Correction."

PREMIUM NOTE
 \$10.00 For Value Received, and in consideration of becoming a member of the Sand Lake Association for Mutual Protection against Horse Thieves, I promise to pay to the said Association the sum of Ten Dollars, in such portions, and at such time or times as the Directors may require, agreeable to their Act of Incorporation.
 SAND LAKE, N. Y. April 20 1881
 Thomas F. Thomas
 RESIDENT OF
 Sand Lake
 N. Y.
 1881

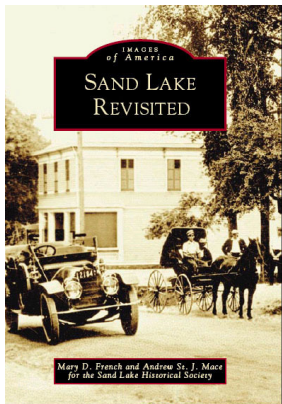
PREMIUM NOTE.
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 SANDLAKE, N. Y. Nov 21 1883
 James Redburn
 RESIDENT OF
 East Greenbush

Premium Notes. These two examples of the premium notes, which were purchased for ten dollars, show the member's town of residence. There was also an additional \$1 initiation fee. This "insurance policy" paid for search of the stolen horse and the thief. If not found, the owner was reimbursed for 2/3 the value of the missing horse. Should the horse be found later, the owner would pay back the reimbursement to the Association.

In later years persons became members for the fee of one dollar. The annual meeting was a social event with the exchange of current events and notation of members who owned horses.

East Greenbush  Fire Company, Inc.
 March 24th 1931
 Mr Clyde Roscott -
 Secretary - Horse Thief Protection Ass'n
 West Sand Lake, N.Y.
 My dear Mr Roscott:-
 Your contribution of \$50.00 made to the East Greenbush Fire Co. is hereby acknowledged with thanks. It was certainly very kind and generous of your association to remember me at this time, especially so, when an organization is wholly dependent upon a small community in which it is located, on a limited membership and contributions.
 The Fire Company at their last meeting extend your own a vote of thanks and appreciation for your gift. With sincere good wishes to your membership -
 Very truly yours,
 East Greenbush Fire Co, Inc
 by J. B. Wykes
 Secretary

East Greenbush Fire Company Thank You. The East Greenbush Fire Company acknowledges a \$50 contribution from the Association in 1931. Other fire companies receiving gifts were: Averill Park – Sand Lake, West Sand Lake, Poestenkill, East Schodack and Wynantskill. In 1926 these Fire Companies received \$100 donations. Nothing had been spent on horses since 1912.



<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 (\$15.00 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 2, 2011, if you are planning to attend the Annual Dinner/Meeting!**

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



Sand Lake Historical Society

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