



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 38, Number 3

Spring 2012

From the president

Your Sand Lake Historical Society has had a meaningful and varied set of programs this winter. We hope you will join us at the upcoming programs and events this spring. Your attendance and support of your local historical society is important as together we keep alive the history of the people, places and events of our local community and the surrounding region.

We continue to support and share in the programs and events celebrating the Bicentennial of the Town of Sand Lake, founded in 1812, organized by the Bicentennial Planning Committee. See the announcements of upcoming Bicentennial events for the months ahead.

Past events — this winter. We enjoyed our annual Christmas covered dish dinner and program on December 13, hosted by Barbara Neu and Ron Berti at their beautifully restored home, originally the Knowlson House, in Sand Lake. Guests brought nonperishable food items which were donated to Doors of Hope.

Mr. George Raneri, former teacher and principal at the Sand Lake School, gave an informative program about the history of the Averill Park School District. Fred and Dee Erickson were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the historic restoration of their home, a former toll house and tavern on the Albany – Sand Lake Turnpike.

On January 12, 2012, Marvin Buble presented a fascinating Power Point program based on his new book *Celebrating the Revolutionary War Municipal Seals*.

On February 14, Gary Mercer brought his extensive personal collection of bottles spanning several centuries and discussed their history, manufacture and value. He also answered questions about old bottles that audience members brought to the program.

On March 13, a combined program by the Knickerbocker Mansion and the Fort Crailo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided excellent information about the Revolutionary and Colonial period, with a focus on the Sand Lake residents who served in the Revolutionary War. We enjoyed special desserts made from recipes of the period. The program was presented by Barbara Pagoda and Leslie Allen.

If you have any suggestions for programs for the September 2012- June 2013 program year, please contact me at your earliest convenience. You can reach me at 518-674-8204 or rkloesch@aol.com

I also thank the officers and trustees of the Sand Lake Historical Society for their year-round leadership of our several activities. We are grateful to Nancy W. Davis who is completing two terms as a Trustee. — *Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, President*

Antiques Appraisal Day

Again, your opportunity and advantage! As an antique dealer, former shop owner said, “the Big Guns” will be taking part. In the Town of Sand Lake on Saturday, April 28 at Miller Hill School, beginning at 10:00 am.

Appraisers:

- 1 Mark Lawson, specializing in jewelry, coins, currency and Oriental rugs, sponsor of Antiques Road Show as seen on WMHT-TV, and owner of Mark Lawson Antiques
- 1 Nancy Toomer, specializing in glassware, china, table linens and silver, owner of House of Rose Antiques, Niskayuna
- 1 Dennis Holzman, specializing in rare books, maps, prints, paintings, furniture, decorative accessories, owner of Dennis Holzman Antiques, Albany.

First come, first served until 2:00 p.m.! Bring one item, pay \$5.00; three items, pay \$10.00.

Help is needed at the admission desk and direction to seats for the choice of appraiser. For the light lunch, help wanted and donations: sandwiches, donuts, coffee and cold drinks. Call to offer help, Nancy Davis 674-2742.

The Sand Lake Historical Society welcomes this convenience to our community. You are welcome for this service!

— *Nancy W. Davis*

Gifts of history

- 1 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.
- 1 *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.
- 1 Robert J. Lilly's book *The Wynants Kill: a small stream, but mighty* is available for \$16.20 (including tax).
- 1 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. [Publisher's note: also recommended is Marvin's latest book: *Celebrating the Revolutionary War; Municipal Symbols of a Free Country!*]
- 1 New: A new set of 6 note cards for \$7.00 (tax included) are available: Carousel at Crystal Lake Park; Parade at Younghan's Race Track and Fairgrounds; Summer campers "roughing it" c. 1915 at Methodist Farm at Crooked Lake; Hikers dressed 1928 style at Camp VanSchoonhoven; Victorian lady rowing her dog on area lake; Family relaxing on their porch at lakeside cottage.
- 1 Still available: Christmas ornaments for \$6.00 (including tax) and Greeting cards of Troy & New England Trolley (5"x7") are available six for \$5.00 (including tax).

Note cards and ornaments are available from Town clerk's office or Mary French. Order information is also available on our web site. You may also contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society, Box 492, West Sand Lake, NY 12195 for any of the above items.

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 2012 or earlier, you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership on the form in this issue (sign up for the Annual Dinner/Meeting at the same time). You may also opt to receive *Historical Highlights* online. Beginning in June 2012, individual dues will be \$10.00 and family dues \$15.00. You may also become an Individual Life Member for \$100.00 or Family Life Members for \$150.00.

Sand Lake BPC update

The Town of Sand Lake is having a birthday! High on the Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee list is the parade on August 25th. Alert: Businesses and groups — expect a letter encouraging participation!

The Children's Activity-Coloring Book is available from some members and at these local businesses: Miller Young's Pharmacy and General Store, Flowers in the Park, Jiff-E-Mart, Sunoco On-the-Go, Java Beanery, Town Hall and Town Library. Possible for a record of genealogy, the book could have long-term interest.

Judy Rowe, Town Historian, and local contributors are appreciated for their parts in creating the pictures, puzzles and memorable record.

The current display at the Sand Lake Town Library honors 100 years of Girl Scouting, Native Americans and the Civil War with a quiz and material by Erik Silver preceded that display. The War of 1812 is the subject of a display in April. Joint efforts of the Town Historian's office, Library and Bicentennial Planning Committee are credited for these displays.

The Advertiser and posted notices announce all the celebration events.

Six Adirondack Rocking Chairs decorated by local artists are on display at six local businesses during April and early May, all offered by silent auction. Closing date of the silent auction will be the SLHS annual meeting on May 8th.

Upcoming are tree planting on Arbor Day, special postal cancellation on June 12th, the 3rd Victorian Tea Party during Library Day and "Classy" Chinese Auction during Summerfest.

Music, vendors, car cruise, "Recognizing Your Own," Interfaith service, trolley tour are all parts of the celebrating on August 25-26. Appreciation to Ed Patanian for contributing space at Westfall Village. — Nancy W. Davis, co-chair

Upcoming SLHS programs

- 1 Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. at Sand Lake Baptist Church: **Troy Fire of 1862 (150th anniversary)**. Speaker: Kathy Sheehan, Rensselaer County Historian. On May 10, 1862, in the midst of the Civil War, a devastating fire destroyed a major portion of downtown Troy. The fire began on the Green Island Bridge when a spark from a locomotive started a fire on the wooden covered bridge. The ashes from the conflagration were cast as far as Sand Lake. This PowerPoint lecture will discuss the fire that day and its aftermath and effect on Troy and Rensselaer County.
- 1 Saturday, April 28: **Antiques Appraisal Day** (see page 1).
- 1 Tuesday, May 8, West Sand Lake Fire House: 6:00 p.m. Hot and Cold Buffet Dinner; 7:00 p.m. **Annual Meeting, including Election of Trustees**. Nominated as Trustees for the term 2012-2015 are Joseph Ferrannini, Woodie Hacker and Katie Komdat. Additional Trustees can also be nominated at the meeting. Program is the Bicentennial of History of the Town of Sand Lake 1812-2012, with Judy Rowe, Historian of the Town of Sand Lake, and other panelists. The cost for the dinner is \$20. Please complete and return the order form for the dinner (in this issue) by April 27. Annual dues can be paid using that form.
- 1 On May 12th the SLHS is sponsoring a **Self-Guided House Tour** for the Bicentennial Celebration from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Tour guide books may be picked up for no charge at Sand Lake Baptist Church, 2960 NY Route 43. Bob & Alyson Mitchell's home on 126 Glass Lake Road will be open to the public.
- 1 Tuesday, June 12 7:30 p.m. at Community Hall of St. Henry's Church: **History of St. Henry's Catholic Church**, presented by Frank Lukovits, Deacon; Gloria Waldron Hukle; and Andrew Perrault.

Please note carefully the different locations of each of these upcoming programs. During July and August we do not meet, so we encourage you to travel and visit historical sites during the summer.

Sand Lake Elementary School

This building was constructed and opened as the Averill Park Central School in 1929, with additions in 1934-35 and 1939-40.

This school building is currently for sale after serving children of our community for more than eighty-two years. Our December 2011 program highlighted its history within the Averill Park School District.

Due to the close collaboration between Miller Hill School and Sand Lake School over the years, we list some of the principals of both schools. Mrs. Marguerite Clark was appointed Principal of Miller School in 1950 and then in 1958 appointed Principal of Sand Lake School grades 5 and 6. (Note: until the completion of Algonquin Middle School and its incorporation of Grades 6, 7 and 8, the Sand Lake School building was commonly referred to as the "Middle School.")

From 1958 to 1964 Miss Laura Leadley served as Principal of Miller Hill. From 1964 to 1967 Mr. Edward Slosek served as Principal of Miller Hill School. In 1968 George J. Raneri was appointed Principal of Miller Hill School. Mrs. Clark resigned as Principal of Sand Lake School in 1970. George Raneri became Principal of the Miller Hill-Sand Lake School complex. He retired in 2002, having served 34 years in the Averill Park School District.

On this page, top to bottom: Sand Lake as it appeared in the 1970s and as it appears today; a 1970s photo of Miller Hill Elementary and a more recent one showing the early 1990s additions to Miller Hill.



Volunteers needed!

Seeking Volunteers or suggestions for two positions of our organization:

1 **Editor** of the Society's publication, *Historical Highlights* (three issues each year)

1 **Treasurer**.

Please contact Bob Loesch if you are interested in volunteering for either position.

Scholarships

Who will receive this year's scholarship awards of \$500.00 presented to a boy and a girl graduating APHS senior who excelled in history? They are being given in memory of Elizabeth Berenice Danks, Marion Hacker, Beryl Vannier and Doris "Doree" Cox.

**Sand Lake Historical Society
Trustees 2011 – 2012**

(term ends)

Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, President (2014)

Mary French, Vice President (2013)

Christine Kronau, Recording Secretary (2014)

Bonnie Hellum, Corresponding Secretary (2013)

Jacqueline Tremont, Treasurer (2014)

Nancy W. Davis (2012)

Patricia Robelotto (2014)

Judy Rowe (2014)

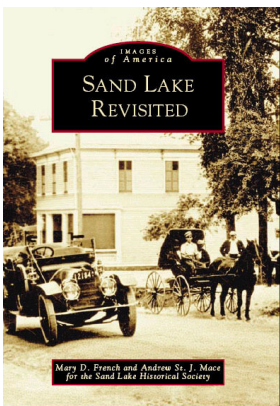
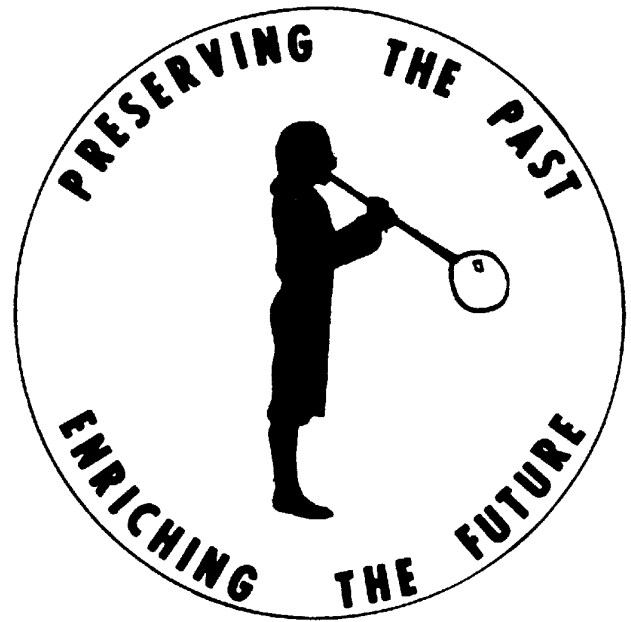
Barbara Neu (2014)

Robert Baum (2014)

Joyce Baum (2014)

Gloria Waldron Hukle (2014)

John (Mac) McEvelly (2014)



<http://sandlakehistory.org>

E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Historical Highlights

Robert Loesch, Interim 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/Renewal

Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation – Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

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 _____*

Receive newsletter electronically? Yes ___ No ___ | 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 **April 27, 2012**, if you are planning to attend the Annual Dinner/Meeting!

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

***NOTE: On June 1, 2012, dues amounts increase to \$10.00 individual _____ \$15.00 family _____**
Lifetime: individual \$100 _____; family of two \$150 _____



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