



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 40, Number 1

Our 40th Year: 1974-2014

Fall 2013

## Highlights of the Annual Meeting and Program, May 14, 2013

A Hot and Cold Buffet was served by Uncle Marty's Adirondack Grill. After dinner the Silent Auction for Art work was completed. We are grateful for the donations of original works by Jenness Cortez, a print of "Kindred Spirits," and a pencil sketch of a carousel horse by John "Matt" Bergman. Proceeds from this auction are used towards our annual scholarship awards.

The Annual Meeting included the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report by Barbara Neu-Berti and the Budget for 2013-2014. The membership voted to appoint Ross and Mary French as Lifetime Honorary Members.

Three Trustees were elected: Bonnie Hellum (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Dee Erickson (first term), Anna Church (first term). The Annual Report by Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch was received.

A program about the History of Uncle Marty's Adirondack Grill, was given by Marty Balga.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Trustees elected the following officers for 2013-14 (one year term): Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, President (2014); John (Mac) McEvelly, Vice President (2014); Christine Kronau, Recording Secretary (2014); Bonnie Hellum, Corresponding Secretary (2016); and Barbara Neu, Treasurer (2014).

## Upcoming programs, Fall 2013

The Trustees have voted to have our monthly meetings and programs for the upcoming year at the **Sand Lake Town Hall**, following the same schedule of 7:30 p.m. meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet in the court room/town meeting room accessible at the ground level entrance on Route 66. We thank Sand Lake Baptist Church for their hospitality as our meeting place for several years.

† **Tuesday, September 10:** "Meet our new Town of Sand Lake Historian." Bob Moore will discuss what he has been working on since his appointment in April 2013. He will also take us through the process of creating a simple video documentary that can be a part of your family history. His office hours at the Historian's Office, located in the back hall of the Sand Lake Town Library, are Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Moore succeeds Judy Rowe, who retired as Town Historian, and Mary French, who resigned as Deputy Historian. We are grateful to both of them for their years of service to the Town and to our nonprofit private local historical society.

† **Tuesday, October 8:** Ken Gypson will give a talk on the old Burden Lake Race Track (*Editor's note: Most likely, Ken will also touch on other "lost tracks" in the area such as Route 66 and Pine Bowl – AM.*)

† **Tuesday, November 12:** "Troy in the Civil War": presented by Michael Barrett. The program will provide an overview of the personalities, industries and events that led to the city's prominent role in the prosecution of the war effort. Barrett is the new Executive Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway and the Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy.

† **Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.:** Holiday Pot Luck Dinner, at the home of Barbara Neu and Ron Berti. The program will be given by Kathy Sheehan: "Christmas in Rensselaer County, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" (a.k.a. "A Visit from St. Nicholas").

Meeting dates for the first half of 2014 will be: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 10. — *Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch*

## 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 **now only \$12.00** (including tax). *Sand Lake*, our first book, is also available for **only \$12.00** (including tax); add \$3.00 shipping, for each copy. Both together may be had for only **\$20.00!** Copies of both books are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office for the Society. 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)

A set of 6 note cards for \$7.00 (tax included) is available, including: Carousel at Crystal Lake Park; Parade at Youngman'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; and Family relaxing on their porch at lakeside cottage. The note cards are available from Town Clerk's office.

**Elsewhere in this issue of *Historical Highlights* you will find a flyer detailing two great new gift items coming in October!**

Order information is also available on our web site. You may send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society, Box 492, West Sand Lake, NY 12196 for any of the above items. -- *Gloria Waldron Hukle, Ways and Means chairperson*

## New editor for *Historical Highlights*

For many years, Andrew Mace has served as the Publisher and occasional Guest Editor of the *Historical Highlights*, our newsletter published three times a year. With this issue, Andrew begins as the editor and continues as the publisher. He is assisted by several Trustees who help with the printing and mailing process: Chris Kronau and Katie Komdat. Andrew is also the webmaster for our web site, which includes feature articles from past issues of *Historical Highlights*: <http://sandlakehistory.org>.

*Editor's note: your new editor considers it an honor to follow in the footsteps of Mary French, Bob Lilly, Arthea Gibbs and others over the past four decades who have contributed so much to Historical Highlights. Comments, contributions and constructive criticisms are always welcomed! – AM)*

## Annual SLHS Memorial Awards

The Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Awards were given in memory of four of our members who died during the past year: Wesley Miller, Kitty Mace, John Udvary and John Kacharian. The \$500 awards to two seniors who excel in history were given at the Commencement Award Ceremony at Averill Park High School.

The Class of 2013 awardees are Peter Brucato and Emily Vicedomine.

We have received these gracious notes:

*Dear Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch,*

*Hello! My name is Emily Vicedomine. I wanted to thank you for making the Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Award possible. Without it, I would not have received such a tremendous honor. Thank you so much.*

*Sincerely,*

*Emily Vicedomine*

*Dear Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch,*

*Thank you so much for the History Scholarship Award. I've always found history to be fascinating, and have enjoyed courses in US and European history. I'm attending Georgetown University in the fall and the scholarship will help greatly in purchasing textbooks and other expenses.*

*Thank you again,*

*Peter Brucato*

**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 2013 or earlier, you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership on the form in this issue. You may also opt to receive *Historical Highlights* online.**

**Individual dues are \$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.**

## Summertime in Averill Park

*As summer wanes, we thought it might be nice to look back on the Summer of '13 – 1913, that is! The following is reprinted from the July 22, 1913, issue of the Troy Record, Evening Edition. It's a look back at life in our Town in arguably simpler times!*

*Thanks to Lisa Robert Lewis, Editor, for permission to reprint this and to reporter Kevin Gilbert, whose mention of this article in "This Day in 1913 in The Record" for July 22, 2013 inspired our excerpting it here in Historical Highlights. Illustrations are from SLHS collections.*



## JULY PLEASURES AT NEARBY LAKES

SUMMER COLONY INCIDENTS IN COUNTY OF RENSSELAER.

### YOUNG AND OLD MAKE MERRY

**Averill Park, Burden's and Snyder's Lake Among the Rural Localities Possessing the Vacation Lure for Trojans – Some Attractive Residences.**

Averill Park, the eastern gateway leading to the Adirondacks, is the scene of much gayety now, due to the influx of summer visitors, who are flocking to the place from all quarters, particularly from this city. While since June the pretty village has contained a large crowd, the number of visitors was greatly increased on Saturday and Sunday, and by



**POST CARD: THE PINES, AVERILL PARK (ALONG CRYSTAL LAKE)**

the end of this week it is expected that every hotel and boarding house there will be crowded to the capacity limit. Many who provide board have arranged for the reception of visitors in numbers that will force those of the household to seek quarters others than their own beds.

Averill Park within the past few years has grown to be the attractive spot for those who wish to spend the summer months there and the result has been the leasing of cottages and erection of summer homes which are occupied from June until late in October. The transient crowd, the young people who would make merry in dancing and other amusements, is gradually getting away from Averill Park and finding it much easier to remain at Snyder's lake for a day's sport or to go further into the country to perhaps Burden Lake or Crooked Lake. Despite the departure of the younger set, Averill Park is not on the wane, but rather it is gaining in popularity and those who are at the park are Trojans and Albanians who go there to get the rest needed in the summer months and secure the needed change for their children.

### About Crystal Lake.

At the park and around the borders of Crystal lake there are many beautiful summer homes and camps in which entertainment is found every day and night and where there is life and gayety at all times. As the visitor comes down the state road that branches off from the road up from the station, he comes to the handsome new St. Henry's church, and just south of it is the beautiful rectory of the



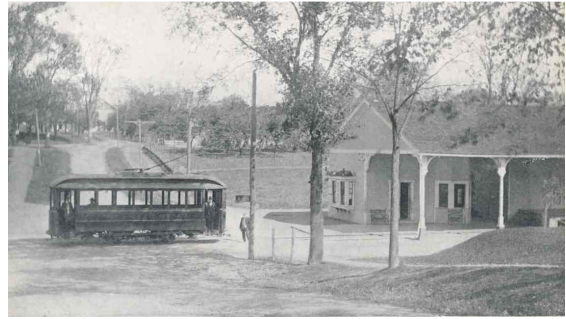
**NEW AND OLD ST. HENRY'S CHURCHES.**

popular and highly esteemed pastor, Rev. Henry A. Miller. For thirteen or more years Father Miller has labored with success at Averill Park, and during that time he has formed friends by the scores, his popularity extended into many quarters of the country. The parish house, while it is no so pretentious, is the home of one who has brought more life to Averill Park than any other in the village. North of the rectory is the home of the artist, Henry Gillette, whose family remain at the



park the year around. On the borders of Crystal lake is the beautiful summer residence of James W. Donnelly of this city. It is located on the highest bluff overlooking the lake and is perhaps the prettiest structure at the lakeside. Nearby is the handsome summer home of H.H. Butler, the well known merchant of Troy, Schenectady and Albany. In the Butler home one is always sure to find a welcome. Not far from the Butler residence is the attractive structure owned and occupied by Peter Keeler of Albany, and on the north shore of the lake is the building occupied by the family of Theodore Bayer, the lumber merchant of Troy. The residence of Thomas F. Powers is another building that stands out prominently on the shores of Crystal lake. On the east side there is the pretty cottage of Mrs. Green and at the southeast is the camp of Bergman Brothers, where on Saturdays and Sundays enjoyment reigns supreme.

They returned home late in the afternoon. Thursday 150 children of the St. Vincent Female Orphan asylum made merry at the park.



**MANY PEOPLE WOULD ARRIVE IN AVERILL PARK VIA THE TROY & NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY!**

The campers at Burden Lake are waiting for the arrival of the boys from St. Peter's Lyceum, Troy, who will open Camp Trouble for the remainder of the summer. They are entertainers of the first order and by their efforts they are known at the lake among the campers. ...

The article continues with various bits of news and notes from Snyder's Lake; near the end of the article, though, is one last note about our Town:

The annual free picnic of the West Sand Lake firemen will be held at Brookside Park Saturday, August 2.

## **Annual Report 2012-2013**

*[Presented at the May 14 Annual Meeting]* As with last year, the year of 2012-2013 has been closely related to the Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial events. We have been ably represented on that planning committee by Nancy W. Davis and Mary French. Information is available about the Bicentennial Events on the town web site: [www.townofsandlake.us](http://www.townofsandlake.us), click on "Bicentennial." These events included the August 25-26 Bicentennial Parade, Review of Bicentennial events on September 11 and placement of Time Capsule at the Veterans Memorial on November 11. The Town Bicentennial year ended December 31, 2012.

Historical Society programs for the past program year included:

- 1 Our Annual Dinner Meeting on May 8, 2012, at West Sand Lake Fire House
- 1 With Hot and Cold Buffet served by West Sand Lake Fire Company Auxiliary. Announcement of auction winners of Sand Lake Rocks, the six decorated Adirondack Rocking Chairs, coordinated by Barbara Neu. Treasurer's Report was accepted and the Budget for 2012-2013 approved. Wesley and Ada Miller were appointed as Honorary Lifetime Members. Three new Trustees were elected: Woodie Hacker, Joe



**A VIEW LOOKING ACROSS CRYSTAL LAKE (FROM A 1920S POST CARD).**

### **Feast Day Observance**

Because the feast day of St. Henry, the patron saint of the Catholic church, fell on Tuesday last, the solemnity of the occasion was not observed until Sunday. During the services Father Miller made announcement of additional patrons and patronesses who have manifested their generosity and co-operation for the parish picnic that is to be held at Brookside park on Tuesday, August 12. A full list will be announced at the services next Sunday. Those whose names were read yesterday were: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Benoit, Troy; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hogarty, Burden Lake; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Clum, Averill Park; Willis Larkin, Averill Park; Mrs. James Duffy, Troy. The masses for next Sunday will be as follows: Averill Park, 8:30 and 10:30 o'clock; Snyders Lake mission, 9:30 o'clock.

Saturday at Averill Park the Sunday schools of the Third Presbyterian church, Albia and St. John's Episcopal Church, Cohoes, enjoyed picnics. Four chartered cars brought the picnickers to the park.

Ferrannini and Katie Komdat. Annual Report for 2011-12 was accepted. The program was a presentation about the History of the Town of Sand Lake 1812- 2012 by Judy Rowe, Town of Sand Lake Historian, and Mary French, Assistant Town Historian.

- † A Self-Guided House Tour was held on Sat, May 12. Tour guide books were picked up at the Sand Lake Baptist Church. Bob and Alyson Mitchell's home, 126 Glass Lake Road was open to the public.
- † June: History of St. Henry's Catholic Church at St. Henry's Church Community Hall. Presented by Deacon Frank Lukovits and Gloria Waldron Hukle.
- † September: Pot luck supper and program, presented by Nancy W. Davis and Fred Erickson, co-chairpersons of the Town Bicentennial Planning Committee.
- † October: the activities of Boy Scout Troop #526, presented by Boy Scout Troop Master Chuck Hacker and troop leaders. The troop is sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Sand Lake.
- † November: Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch presented a program on "My Family and World War II."
- † December: Holiday Pot Luck Dinner at Knowlson House, Home of Ron Berti and Barbara Neu-Berti, 42 Schumann Road, Sand Lake. Program: Peg Harbour-Holland, "Introduction to Genealogy and Resources of the Capital District Genealogical Society."
- † January 2013: program by Jim Bonesteel about the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and the history of the Rensselaer Plateau.
- † February: Michael A. Esposito spoke about "Troy's Little Italy". Mr. Esposito, a life-long resident of Troy is the author of *Troy's Little Italy*. (Arcadia Publishing, 2009)
- † March: John "Mac" McEvelly told about the Civil War through the eyes of a retired Irish Civil War veteran soldier.
- † April: Kathy Arbogast spoke about "Buttons." She is active with The Mohawk Valley Button Club and the Half Moon Button Club.

Upcoming Historical Society programs: Tuesday, June 11 at 7:30 pm at Sand Lake Baptist Church: "Three Centuries on the Hudson River," about 1696 family homestead and the eleven generations of Staats family who have lived there, by William L. Staats. Strawberry shortcake dessert will be provided by the Trustees. We do not have any programs in July and August.

We welcome your suggestions of speakers as we begin planning for 2013-14. [Editor's note: see page one for current information on upcoming meetings. - AM]

Other noteworthy items:

- † Thank you to all our Trustees, as each one provides special talents, guidance of our

Society activities and creative leadership throughout the year.

- † Thanks to Andrew Mace for maintaining and updating the SLHS web site and for creating a new tri-fold membership brochure, and to the Trustees for providing refreshments, including coffee provided by Michael St. Germain, at each meeting.

Annual membership dues effective annually June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014, are \$3. per student (13-22), \$10. per individual, \$15 per family; \$100 per Lifetime (individual), \$150. per Lifetime (family-two persons).

Scholarship awards for 2013, will be given to two Averill Park HS seniors, in memory of John Kacharian, Kitty Mace, Wesley Miller, John Udvary

Thanks to Jackie Tremont for coordinating the Silent Auction of the two art works, and Mac McEvelly for donating the bottle of Gettysburg wine..

There were displays in Town Hall during the year, sales coordinated by Ways and Means committee with Gloria Waldron Hukle, and library, inventory and acquisitions coordinated by Pat Robelotto.

Thanks to the team that prepares *Historical Highlights*. Feature articles this year were "Raising the family" reminiscences by Elsie Dobert Cann (1922-2011); "Immigrant Life 1910-1914 by Ron Berti, "Time Capsule Memorabilia" by Mary French; and "Jack Smead and Musicals at Averill Park" by Dee Erickson, Marietta Mitchell and Andrew Mace.

Our officers have been Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch (President), Mary French and John McEvelly (Vice President), Christine Kronau (Recording Secretary), Bonnie Hellum (Corresponding Secretary) and Jacqueline Tremont, Barbara Neu (Treasurer). In addition, Trustees have been Joyce Baum, Robert Baum, Gloria Waldron Hukle, Judy Rowe, Joe Ferrannini, Woodie Hacker and Katie Komdat.

We invite volunteers or suggestions for different activities during the year.

Website: <http://sandlakehistory.org>

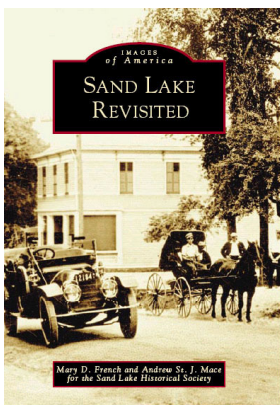
Robert Loesch, President

## Sand Lake Historical Society Trustees 2013 – 2014

(term ends)

Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, President (2014)  
John (Mac) McEvelly, Vice President (2014)  
Christine Kronau, Recording Secretary (2014)  
Bonnie Hellum, Corresponding Secretary (2016)  
Barbara Neu, Treasurer (2014)

Trustees: Joyce Baum (2014); Robert Baum (2014); Anna Church (2016); Dee Erickson (2016); Gloria Waldron Hukle (2014); Patricia Robelotto (2014); Joe Ferrannini (2015); Woodie Hacker (2015); Katie Komdat (2015); Jacqueline Tremont-Bradley (2014)



<http://sandlakehistory.org>

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

Historical Highlights  
*Andrew Mace*, Editor/Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society

Post Office Box 492

West Sand Lake, New York 12196



## Sand Lake Historical Society

Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$3 per Student (13-22) \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 per Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per Family \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 per Lifetime (Individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 per Lifetime (Family – two persons) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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

**NEW HERITAGE HEIRLOOM ITEMS FROM SLHS THIS FALL**

The *Sand Lake Historical Society* is pleased to present two very special new items that are available to the public for purchase this fall season:

**HAND-PAINTED CAROUSEL HORSE TREE ORNAMENT**

KEEP OR GIVE THIS unique TREASURE -- **\$15.00 EA.** (QUANTITIES LIMITED) (Tax included)



**The SLHS Heirloom/ Heritage 9 Bean Soup in a Bag -- only \$4.00 each (Tax included)**



Every colorful hand-sewn bag contains the ingredients and recipe for a wholesome pot of soup. Also included is a bit of old-time Sand Lake memorabilia discovered within our archives.

Please note fabrics on bags are random selections.

Available at the October meeting or contact President Robert Loesch: [rkloesch@aol.com](mailto:rkloesch@aol.com) or call 518-674-8204 to pre-order.