



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 41, Number 1

Our 41st Year

Fall 2014

From the (outgoing) president; excerpts from the 2013-14 annual report

- † Ross and Mary French were named Honorary Lifetime Members.
- † Thanks to the Nominating Committee: John MacEvelly, Katie Komdat, Anna Church.
- † Three new Trustees were elected: Bonnie Hellum (2nd term), Dee Erickson (1st term) and Anna Church (1st term).
- † Historical Society programs for the 2013-14 program year included:
 - June 2013: *Three Centuries on the Hudson River*, about the 1696 family homestead and the 11 generations of Staats family who have lived there, by William L. Staats.
 - September: *Meet our new Town of Sand Lake Historian*, with Bob Moore.
 - October: *Stock car racing and dirt tracks in the Sand Lake area*, by Ken Gypson.
 - November: *Troy in the Civil War*, by Michael Barrett, Executive Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway and the Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy.
 - December: *Holiday Pot Luck Dinner*, at Knowlson House, home of Ron Berti and Barbara Neu-Berti. Program by Jackie Tremont and Bob Shuey.
 - January 2014: Kenneth James of Stephentown spoke about the *American Chestnut tree and his project to preserve the species in the Northeast*.
 - February: *Show and Tell about Local Area Quilts*. Six local women displayed and spoke about quilts they had collected or created.
 - March: Julie Sloan and William Patriguin spoke about the *Historical Berkshire Glass Works of Lanesboro, Massachusetts*.
 - April: Phyllis Chapman presented the *first person story of Lucy Larcom, a 19th century New England textile mill worker*.
 - May (Annual Meeting): *History of Burden Lake Country Club*, by Tom Choquette.
 - June: *Searching the History of Your House*, with David Ernst, FramePro Construction, and Fred Erickson, West Sand Lake homeowner.
- † The Historical Society is planning a trip to the Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke to attend the annual Harvest Festival on Sat. Sept. 21. (*Details elsewhere in this issue of Historical Highlights – Ed.*)
- † Thank you to all our Trustees, as each one provides special talents, guidance of our Society activities and creative leadership throughout the year. We thank the Trustees for providing refreshments, including coffee provided by Michael St. Germain, at each meeting. Thanks also to the Trustees for coordinating the Chinese Auction of the donated items this evening and planning throughout the year all our events.
- † Thanks to Andrew Mace for maintaining and updating the SLHS website and for becoming the editor of *Historical Highlights*.
- † Scholarship awards for 2014 will be given to two Averill Park HS seniors, in memory of all our deceased members. (*Those thank-yous appear elsewhere in this issue of Historical Highlights – Ed.*) There were displays in Town Hall during the year. The sales of books, note cards, bean bag soup and Carousel horse ornament were coordinated by the Ways and Means committee with Gloria Waldron Hukle, chairperson. The SLHS library collection, inventory and acquisitions were coordinated by Pat Robelotto.

† Our officers have been Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch (President; 2014, 2nd); John McEvilly (Vice President; 2014, 1st); Christine Kronau Recording Secretary; 2014, 2nd); Bonnie Hellum (Corresponding Secretary; 2016, 2nd); and Barbara Neu-Berti (Treasurer; 2014, 1st). In addition, Trustees have been Joyce Baum (2014; 1st); Robert Baum (2014; 1st); Gloria Waldron Hukle (2014; 1st); Joe Ferrannini (2015; 1st); Woodie Hacker (2015; 1st); Katie Komdat (2015; 1st); Patricia Robelotto (2014; 2nd); Jackie Tremont (2014; 2nd); Anna Church (2016; 1st); and Dee Erickson (2016; 1st). (Parentheses indicate the May 31 of the year the person's term ends). We thank those going off the board for their service: Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, Christine Kronau, Patricia Robelotto, Jackie Tremont, Joyce Baum, Robert Baum and Gloria Waldron Hukle.

We invite volunteers or suggestions for different programs or activities during the year. -- *Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch, President*

Fall 2014 programs

Our speakers scheduled for Fall 2014 include:

- † September 9: Bob Moore, Town of Sand Lake Historian, will review what has been happening in the historian's office over the past year. There will be a short preview of the new iPhone app *Sand Lake: Then and Now*. When you reach a location on the map with a red arrow, click and it will bring up a photo of that location's past. Click again and text will appear explaining the history. The second part of the program will be a short video interview of past Sand Lake Town Historian Judy Rowe, conducted by Rensselaer County Historian Kathy Sheehan.
- † October 14: Working at Faith Mills (seeking former employees). This will be a sharing of any former employees still living in the area. Contact Bob Loesch 518-674-8204 if you are able to speak.
- † November 11: Carl Markussen will talk about the history of the Methodist Church in West Sand Lake along with related topics.
- † December 9: Kathy Sheehan, "Twas the Night before Christmas" (more information in the Winter 2015 issue)

We welcome your suggestions of speakers as we begin planning for 2015. In 2015, program dates for the first half of the year will be January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9.

Most programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, at the Sand Lake

Town Hall. The December 9, 2014, pot luck dinner holiday program will be at Knowlson House, Sand Lake, at 6:00 p.m.

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 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; and Family relaxing on their porch at lakeside cottage. The note cards are available from Town Clerk's office.

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*

Field trip to Knickerbocker Manor

Saturday, September 20: Join us on an outing to the historic Knickerbocker Mansion in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County. The Mansion, constructed by Johannes Knickerbocker III circa 1780, has been almost completely restored from a semi-ruin to its former grandeur by the Knickerbocker Historical Society. We will be attending the Society's annual Harvest Festival, which includes a Hudson River Ramble Devil's Chimney Walk at 10:00 a.m., Historic Presentations at 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 & 3:00 p.m., and a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner (\$10.00), served from 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. Mansion and Cemetery tours, bake sale, Charlotte's Shop, snack bar and harvest produce will be available throughout the day.

We will meet at Sand Lake Town Hall, 8428 NY Route 66, at 8:45 a.m. to car pool to the Mansion. Please email Bonnie Hellum at upstateautumn@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

The Tin Clapper Shop from West Sand Lake

In October of 1974 I was made aware that the local IGA market in West Sand Lake was going to demolish a series of early houses on the main street of the village to expand their parking facility. I dropped everything and ran down to take a look. There were some Gothic Victorian houses and a few early 19th century houses.



Home of Clarence Bame in West Sand Lake village; the tin shop was behind the house.

The earliest one was built about 1810 and was remodeled about 1840. It was the former home of Clarence Bame, who had recently moved out. I had permission to look through it and I found the top of the Palladian window sealed up in the wall inside the upstairs hall.

Then I went out back to investigate the shed in the back yard. It had been re-clad in novelty siding in the mid-20th century and some of the window placements had been changed. When I walked in found an old tin shop! It was built with a hewn Dutch framing system and still contained all the early benches and a few tools. It was built about 1820.

There was a large bulldozer parked right next to it. I decided it had to be saved and I was the one to save it. I contacted the owners who told



The tin shop as it now stands in Eastfield Village.

me I had to deal with Mr Middleton, the demo contractor. I contacted him and was told all the buildings would be destroyed in 2 days. That wasn't good news. The other bad news was that he wanted me to supply liability insurance while I worked on it. I made calls to the local insurance agents and got nowhere. Then I got a bright idea. He could hire me to demolish the building and I would be covered by his liability insurance. He decided that was a good idea and I paid him to put me on his crew for 2 days. That all the time I had. I worked alone and photographed, measured, tagged and dismantled it in time.

I brought it home on the 10th of October and immediately put it back up. I then started asking for more information about the shop. I got hold of Marion Smauder, Clarence Bame's daughter, and she was a great help. She actually showed me a decorated deed box that had been made in the shop. Clarence was living with his daughter, Marion, so I was able to talk to him. He said his tools went to auction 4 years earlier at the Niverville Exchange. My legs turned to rubber. My family friend Van Tryon from Nassau, had come over the day after that sale and told that he had gone to the auction last night and they had sold the contents of a tin shop, cheap. I felt bad enough that I had missed that four years earlier, but I felt especially bad when I realized it was contents on my new tin shop.



Clarence Bame in the doorway of the tin shop.

It turned out that Marion's daughter, Carole Sue Kelly, had kept some of the tools to use and they were in her garage. I was able to buy those early tools years later. So I have some original tools from the shop.

Clarence told me that he was one of three generations of family tanners that he knew of who had worked in the shop. He had learned from his uncle George Clapper

who had learned from his Uline ancestors whose family had built the shop.

The shop started out a simple rectangle and then in 1840 when the house was remodeled they added an extension to the east end of the shop. The benches are 3-4 in thick maple planks with holes cut in to accept the bases of the tools. The

copper tea pot trade sign was made by me while I had mono in 1975. It's old now. – Don Carpentier

Editor's note: Earlier this year, I came across this article by Don on his Facebook page for Historic Eastfield Village, Don's life work and now a most meaningful tribute to his skills, abilities and passion for history and preservation. Words and photos here are his and are used with permission.



Closeup of the "trade sign" kettle Don made for the shop in 1975.

Don passed away on August 26; an obituary appears below.

Donald G. Carpentier, 62, passed away at home on August 26, 2014, after a long battle with ALS. A true renaissance man of his time, he was a self-taught craftsman, tinsmith, blacksmith, potter, carpenter, and mason, as well as a teacher, mentor, father, friend, husband, brother and uncle. He is survived by his husband, Scott Penpraze and stepson Bryce; daughter, Hannah Carpentier; son, Jared Carpentier; sisters, Linda (Anthony) Covert and Ellen (Brian) Cypher, and brother, Jim (Caroline) Carpentier. He is also survived by six nieces and nephews and five grandnieces and nephews. Don is predeceased by his parents, Donald C. Carpentier and Delores Bissett Carpentier.

Don was born on September 22, 1951 in Knoxville, Tenn., before eventually moving to New York in 1954, and finally to East Nassau with his parents in 1966. He graduated from Averill Park High School in 1969 before attending Hudson Valley Community College for civil engineering and then graduating from Empire State College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in historic preservation.

After becoming interested in antiques as a child, he started collecting bottles at 14 and began his first building, a colonial A-frame, at the age of 15. In 1968, he opened his first antique shop, Chicken Coop Antiques, where he bought and sold antiques, enabling him to fund his true passion, historic preservation. Don's efforts to preserve historic buildings began in 1971 when he moved a blacksmith's shop into his father's "east field." He eventually dismantled and reassembled more than 20



Some of the interior of the shop, including the maple benches.

historic buildings to create Eastfield Village, which serves as a working laboratory for students attending the Early American Trades and Historic Preservation Workshops, the longest-running historic preservation school in the country, now in its 38th year.

Don became interested in mochaware pottery after discovering discarded shards while moving the William Briggs Tavern. He researched the era and techniques, rediscovered many lost skills and produced museum-quality reproductions of mochaware pottery that are in use by such prestigious institutions as Colonial Williamsburg and Old Sturbridge Village. Don was proud to discover recently that he had descended from the Bissett and Price families of potters dating back to the 18th century. Don traveled to England many times in an effort to help preserve priceless molds from the Spode Pottery factory in Burslem, England, as well as Falmouth, Jamaica, to help consult with the World Monuments Fund.

He has earned many prestigious awards from museums and historical societies, the most recent being the Anne Hyde Clarke Logan Cultural Preservation Award and the distinction of Honorary Fellow of the Nantucket Historical Association.

Don was dedicated to his community and volunteered as an assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 279 of Latham for many years. He was also a member of the Nassau town board for nearly two decades, where he earned a statewide reputation for his advocacy of protection of community character and home rule. He was instrumental in the creation of the town's bicentennial program, committee on historic preservation and related programs, and particularly dedicated to expanding funding for highways and protections from toxic contaminations.

Don's family would like to thank the ALS Center, 19 Warehouse Row, Albany, for the invaluable assistance during his illness, as well as the Hoags Corners Fire Company, 7237 NY 66, East Nassau, NY 12062, and the Nassau Ambulance for their services. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in his memory to any of the charities noted above, as well as the Historic Eastfield Foundation, 3 Timber Lane, Glenmont, NY 12077

Thank you notes from scholarship recipients

Dear Rev. Dr. Loesch,

Thank you and the Sand Lake Historical Society for giving me this award. I am honored that you considered me as a candidate.

Thank you again and have a wonderful summer. A'sdis Griggs

Dear Rev. Dr. Loesch,

I would like to sincerely thank the Sand Lake Historical Society for your generous contribution to my education, and tell you what it means to receive this award. I intend to pursue a college education and, with perseverance, I hope to graduate with as little debt as possible. This means that any help that I can get is greatly needed and, I assure you, greatly appreciated. While I do not intend to pursue said education in the field of history, I do intend to allocate the resources you have provided to further my education in electrical engineering.

I have long been devoted to undertaking an education in the field and I hope that, though I am not going into history as a career, I can make historical achievements in my field. And it is with the aid that you have provided me that I can do so. Thank you, again, for your investment in my future, and for giving me the opportunity to thrive as a devout student.

*Appreciatively yours,
Sean Willie*

Errata

Text on page 4 of the Spring 2014 issue should have read "...the above sketch of a charcoal burning pit, drawn by Patricia Brock, was reproduced in that issue." We apologize for the error.

Trustees and officers, 2014-15

John (Mac) McEvilly (President; 2017, second term)

Joan Fuess (Vice President; 2017, first term)

Mary Weber (Recording Secretary; 2017, first term)

Bonnie Hellum (Corresponding Secretary; 2016, second term)

Barbara Neu (Treasurer; 2017, second term)

Joseph Ferrannini (2015, first term)

Woodie Hacker (2015, first term)

Kathryn (Katie) Komdat (2015, first term)

Anna K. Church (2016, first term)

Dee Erickson (2016, first term)

Bob Moore (2017, first term)

Mary June Roy (2017, first term)

Terms of Trustees and officers: June 1- May 31

New nonfiction book by our own Robert Loesch

A new nonfiction book written by Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch is now available for signing and purchase from Zion's United Church of Christ of Sand Lake, New York.

One Year: Ministries of One Parish and Pastor: \$18. Per copy including sales tax

This book describes the true account of the ministries, programs and activities of Zion's United Church of Christ during the one year from June 2012 through May 2013, as observed and told by Pastor Bob.

The book is dedicated to "all members and friends of Zion's United Church of Christ, those who are in eternal rest with God, the living, and those who will be with us in the future."

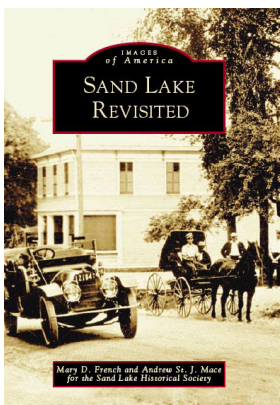
This book will also be the subject of two monthly book studies from September 2014 through June 2015, in place of the usual monthly all-church and at-home Bible study by the local congregation. One will be a 12:00 noon lunch study on the second Tuesday of each month at Lakeview Restaurant in Averill Park and the other will be on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Loesch has been pastor of Zion's United Church of Christ, located east of Albany, New York, since June 2006. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, Yale Divinity School and Hartford Seminary. He has also served churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The Day the Drum Stopped and Other Stories, by Robert Loesch, a collection of ten short stories, published in January 2013, is now available at 50% discount, \$9.00 per copy, including sales tax.

All income from the sale of both books is given to the ministries of Zion's United Church of Christ. If you wish to help with these book sales, you can host a reading, discussion and book-signing in your home, a church, bookstore or library. The book is especially suitable for local church book study, especially shared with other local congregations, to encourage community outreach and ecumenical ministries.

To order: Send check payable to Zion's United Church of Christ, 741 Taborton Road, Sand Lake, NY 12153 With your name and mailing address. Please indicate number of copies of ***One Year: Ministries of One Parish and Pastor*** at \$18. each (including tax) and/or ***The Day the Drum Stopped and Other Stories*** at \$9. (new 50% discount price). Or place your order by email: rkloesch@aol.com or 518-674-8204, No charge for shipping and handling.



<http://sandlakehistory.org>

E-mail: 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

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Name _____

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

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

Would you prefer to receive newsletter via e-mail ___ or via Postal Mail ___ *(choose only one)*

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



Sand Lake Historical Society

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