



# Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 41, Number 2

Our 41st Year

Winter 2015

## From the president

First, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays from the Sand Lake Historical Society. At our May 2014 meeting we inducted new trustees and officers, which was both exciting and challenging. As President, I am most appreciative of all the programs that were set up by our past president Dr. Robert Loesch from September through December, all of which have been historical and informative to our town.

December's meeting, as always is our Christmas party which again is being hosted by Ron and Barbara Neu Berti. It's wonderful to celebrate at one of Sand Lake's premier landmarks.

Now it's time to start a new program year, starting with a Taste of Dutch History. Yes, the same people who settled in our area and gave names to some of the most familiar spots in our area. The Co-Chair for our programs, Bob Moore, will introduce the Dutch series in January and February. March and April programs are still being finalized, but be sure that we will surprise you with new and award-winning programs. [Ed. Note: Details of upcoming programs below!]

For more information about the Sand Lake Historical Society, Events, Membership and Historical Markers, please check out our web site at <http://sandlakehistory.org> — John "Mac" McEvilly, President

## Upcoming programs

**The annual Christmas party of the Sand Lake Historical society will be held on Tuesday, December 9th. Ron and Barbara Neu-Berti are once again graciously sharing their magnificent home on 42 Schumann Rd. in Sand Lake. The party begins at 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring an entrée, casserole, salad or vegetable dish to share. The trustees are asked to bring dessert items.**

**We are pleased that Kathy Sheehan from the Rensselaer County Historical Society will be our guest speaker. As something new this year, there will be a Chinese auction, so please bring a few dollars so that you can bid on some very special items for a gift or for a treat for yourself! Please also bring some nonperishable food items for *Doors of Hope* in the spirit of the holidays.**

It's been over 400 years since Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson River, beginning a series of events that left a huge mark on our area. Previously our Dutch history was almost a footnote, overshadowed by that of the English. Because of the New York State Library's New Netherland Research Center (formerly the New Netherland Project), there is a revival of interest in the strong Dutch influence and history of our area. The Sand Lake Historical Society is proud to announce two programs highlighting our Dutch ancestors and the incredible influence they had.

- 1 On **Tuesday, January 13th**, Heidi Hill, Historic Site Manager for Ft. Crailo and Schuyler Mansion, will entertain and educate us with ***Sustenance and Style: Dining and Food Ways of the 17th Century Dutch in the Hudson Valley***.
- 1 On **Tuesday, February 10th**, Dr. Janny Venema, Author and Researcher of the New Netherland Research Center, will present ***Kiliaen van Rensselaer, Beverwijck and the New Netherland Research Center***. Her talk will include information from her books, *Kiliaen Van Rensselaer (1586-1643): Designing a New World* and *Beverwijck: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652-1664*. She will also cover charity in Beverwijck and the work they are doing at the New Netherland Institute in Albany. The period covered will not go beyond 1664.
- 1 Was *Little Women* one of those books in your childhood that you could not put down? Louisa May Alcott wrote the novel based loosely on her childhood experiences. Can you guess which of the sisters is based on Louisa? Denise Wright will introduce us to Louisa and her life on **March 10**. Denise is a UAlbany professor who teaches English 12 at Rensselaer High School and, as part of her curriculum, takes the class to the Alcott home in Concord, MA.

Please join us for these incredible programs at the Sand Lake Town Hall in Sand Lake at 7:30 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 now sold out, but 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 the 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.

## Totem Lodge remembered

Andrea Lurski, a junior at The College of New Jersey, has completed a course project *Totem Lodge: A Delicate History*. Andrea, an Elementary Ed. Major, has created a six-page web site on the history of the Totem Lodge, the popular Burden Lake resort from the 1920s to the 1950s. The site includes many old photos of the resort as well as an interview with Brian Hampson, the current golf pro at the Burden Lake Country Club. Check out Andrea's web site at <http://oldtotemlodge.weebly.com/>.

(You may remember we featured an article on the ongoing restoration of the Totem Pole in the Winter 2012 issue of *Historical Highlights*.)



## Sheer Road school historical marker

On Sheer Road, there is now an historical marker showing where a

one-room school house stood, one of many in the Town of Sand Lake. It served students through 8th grade from 1895-1929, when the Averill Park Central School District was formed and the building most recently known as the Sand Lake School was opened.

The marker was purchased by the Sand Lake Historical Society. It was the idea of Jackie Tremont, previously a SLHS trustee. Funding came from SLHS fundraisers, including a wine raffle provided by Morgan's Artillery. The site was prepared and cleared by current SLHS president John "Mac" McEvelly, Brian Bradley and the Town Highway Department generously provided the cement and placed the marker.

Dan and Sue Bell graciously allowed the marker to be placed on their property, Al Hayner provided the year that the school opened, and Town Historian Bob Moore provided a photo of



the building.

The site was dedicated on Tuesday, September 30. The SLHS trustees in attendance were Anna Church (schoolmarm), Bonnie Hellum, Bob Moore, Mac McEvelly, Joe Ferrannini and Dee Erickson. Also attending were Andrew Mace and Jackie Tremont.

## Carousel elephant resurfaces!

The American Folk Art Museum in New York City will be presenting the exhibition *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* from December 14, 2014–March 8, 2015. One of the works that will be on view is an elephant that was installed on the original Sulzer's Carousel in its many locations. This is the same carousel that for many years was located at Crystal Lake!

You may remember we featured "Mascot" – one of the carousel horses – in Fall 2009 issue of *Historical Highlights*. The carousel had quite a



history. From the Fall 2009 article: *The Louis Bopp-Charles Looff-manufactured carousel began its life in the 1890s at Sulzer's Harlem River Park, New York City. Following the refurbishing and conversion of the stationary carousel, to include jumpers on alternating 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rows,*



**The restored carousel elephant that appears as part of the American Folk Art Museum exhibit *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* in NYC.**



**The elephant as it appeared when the carousel was at Crystal Lake.**

*the carousel was moved in 1908 to New Rensselaer Park in the Lansingburgh section of Troy. Advertised as a monster carousel, it remained there until the park closed in 1920.*

*Little information is known about the time the carousel was at Ford Park in Green Island ca. 1922 – 1926, after which the carousel and the building were moved the 20 miles to Crystal Lake Park. The carousel remained there until 1960, when it was moved Krause's Halfmoon Beach in Crescent. The carousel at Halfmoon Beach stopped serving patrons by 1976 and was bought by Gray Tuttle in 1978, who sold the figures to various collectors.*

The exhibit will travel around the country after it closes in NYC.

There were 58 figures on the carousel: 39 horses, 5 goats, 3 camels, 3 giraffes, 3 lions, 3 elephants and 2 teddy bears — plus two chariots. We're now aware of one horse and one elephant; where might the rest of the figures be?

## **Sand Lake history? There's an "app" for that!**

Some of you may have noticed the West Sand Lake Fire House message sign that announces a free Smart Phone app, *Sand Lake: Then and Now*. The app is available to users of i-phones as well as droid devices. Simply go to the app store and search *Sand Lake: Then and Now*.

The app gives you the chance to see what Sand Lake, West Sand Lake and Averill Park looked like in the 1800s. Some of the highlights are old photos of the intersection of Rtes. 43 and 150 in the village of West Sand Lake. You'll see the original Miller's Market, the Brewster House, William Mielenz's Wagon Shop and the old District 4 School with students posing outside for a class picture sometime in the 1890s. There are also photos of the Trolley Depot in Averill Park and Brown's Crooked Lake Hotel, where then-Governor Theodore Roosevelt summered with his family.

The app is a work in progress and will be developed with more photos and extended historical narrative. If you are a long-time resident of the Town of Sand Lake you might enjoy looking for friends and relatives in these photos. We also ask you to join the project by providing any old photos that you might have (we can scan them into the computer and return them immediately) that show the rich historical past of our community. Remember, they do not have to be photos from the 1800s. Again, any photos that show how we lived, learned, worked and recreated will deepen the meaning of the app and show who we were and are.

If you're interested in sharing photos or if you have any questions about the app call Town Historian Bob Moore 674-2026 x20 or [bmoore@sand-lake.us](mailto:bmoore@sand-lake.us)

## **Teddy Roosevelt visits West Sand Lake!**

The following article is taken from <http://www.hoxsie.org>, a web site featuring "Little bits of history and ephemera from Albany, Schenectady and Troy"!

*There's some sort of hubbub about Roosevelts these days, so we may as well recall the time when Colonel Roosevelt, not yet Governor of the Empire State, made what the New York Tribune called "The Colonel's Flying Trip to the Rensselaer County Fair," in 1898. At that point flying was entirely metaphorical. [Editor's Note: At this time, of course, the Rensselaer County*

Fair was held in West Sand Lake, the fairgrounds being where the present day West Sand Lake Elementary School is located.]

**Troy, N.Y., Oct. 14.** — Colonel Theodore Roosevelt had a cordial reception to-day on his first visit to the interior of the State since he was nominated for Governor. The report had been sent out from New-York late last night that he would be in Troy to-night, and would make a political address, but this was an error. He had simply accepted an invitation to visit the fair of the Rensselaer County Agricultural Society at West Sand Lake. Notwithstanding the circumstance that his visit here was not of a political nature and was unexpected, great interest was manifested in his presence, and the heartiness of the greetings tendered him indicated beyond question his popularity.

Colonel Roosevelt departed from his home at Oyster Bay early this morning, and caught the Empire State Express on the Central Railroad for Albany. He arrived in Albany at 11:11 o'clock, and remained in the city forty-five minutes. During every second of his brief stay in the capital there were cheers, hurrahs, flag-wavings and shouts of enthusiasm in his honor ....

When Colonel Roosevelt was seen the gathering sent up a mighty shout of "Hurrah for our next Governor!" "Hurrah for Roosevelt!" Three cheers for Colonel Roosevelt!" Three cheers were given; another three were called for and came with deafening force; another three cheers brought forth the demand for a tiger, which was given with vigor. Colonel Roosevelt gave a hundred hearty handclaps to those who were presented to him by John Knickerbocker, of the Troy Committee, and Edward B. Cantine, representing the Albanians present. A sturdy policeman made a path for the Colonel, who, flanked by Mr. Knickerbocker and Mr. Cantine, and followed by a cheering crowd, passed through the station yard and the arcade to the trolley-car which was to bear him and the committee to Troy ....

Colonel Roosevelt was told that Governor Black was at the Executive Chamber. "Let's go up and see the Governor," he said, and a cab was obtained to drive him to the Capitol ... The party was ushered into the Governor's private room. Governor Black smilingly greeted Colonel Roosevelt, who acknowledged the kindly telegrams of the Governor sent after the Saratoga Convention. Governor Black and Colonel Roosevelt then had five minutes of private conversation, during which the Governor

assured the Colonel that all his influence would be exerted for the Colonel's election ....

Colonel Roosevelt was taken on his arrival here [in Troy] to the Troy Club. In the clubroom an informal reception was held. Many officers and members of the 2d New-York Regiment greeted the Colonel, and the leader of the Rough Riders expressed himself as exceedingly glad to meet the soldiers.

Colonel Roosevelt then departed for West Sand Lake. At Albia the party changed cars, taking a car of the Troy and New-England Railway. Many persons had assembled at Albion. On the journey to West Sand Lake the Colonel conversed with members of the party, and seemed to enjoy the trip ....

The car arrived at the Brookside Park station in West Sand Lake, about 1:15, and as the Colonel alighted Doring's Band welcomed him with the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner." Coaches were immediately taken, and the party was conveyed to the fair grounds. Colonel Roosevelt had a cordial reception along the way, and upon reaching the fair grounds the coaches proceeded around the racetrack so that everyone could have an opportunity to see the distinguished guest. Colonel Roosevelt acknowledged the welcome he received, but on account of the lateness of the hour it was imperative that he should not speak, as he was obliged to proceed as quickly as possible to Rensselaer, that he might make sure to catch his train for New-York. He had an important engagement to speak in the metropolis this evening. There were loud cries of "Speech! Speech!" from the crowd, but he was compelled to decline the invitation. His reception everywhere on the fair grounds was cordial, and he evidently enjoyed his visit to the fair.

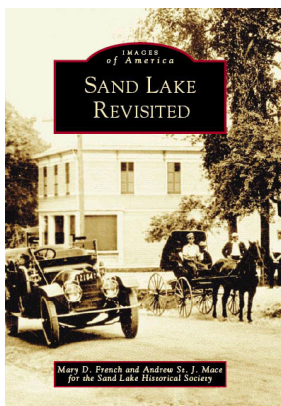
*A few weeks later, Roosevelt defeated Augustus Van Wyck, though not by a whole lot.*

**Last month, SLHS member and former trustee Robert Baum passed away. Our thoughts and sympathy are with Joyce and her family at this time.**

## Web links of interest...

...as we look forward to the January and February 2015 meetings:

- ↑ *Crailo State Historic Site*: <http://parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/30/details.aspx>
- ↑ *Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site*: <http://nysparks.com/historic-sites/33/details.aspx>
- ↑ *New Netherland Research Center*: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/newnetherland/>
- ↑ *New Netherland Institute*: <http://www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/>



<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

(Please print clearly)

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

\$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

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