

Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 42, Number 3

Our 42nd Year

Spring 2016

Recent Past Programs

- † **February 9:** Local artist and performer Clifford Oliver Mealy (right) recreated the persona of Solomon Northup, a free African-American New Yorker kidnapped into slavery before the Civil War, whose story is also a 2013 Academy Award-winning motion picture. 7:30 p.m. at Sand Lake Town Hall.
- † **March 8:** Joan Fuess presented Jennie Averill and reflected on the Averills and their influence on Sand Lake: Moscow the Civil War horse, the Averill Park Land Improvement Company, the Troy and New England Railway, Averill Park Hotel, Interlachen Park, Sunset Lodge, Crist Crape's Central Hotel and, last but not least, the family tie to Charles Nalle, the runaway slave. Joan then was joined by several descendants of the Averill Family, who shared additional memories and family artifacts.
- † **April 9:** *Big Band Gala at Crooked Lake*; more about this in our fall issue!



Upcoming Programs

- † **May 10:** Our Annual Dinner/Meeting will be held at *Zion United Church of Christ in Taborton*, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We'll start out with a Roast Pork dinner, served buffet style around 6:30 p.m. and follow with a brief annual meeting with election of Trustees* and other matters. Then Phyllis Chapman, dba "Vintage Visitors," will bring to life Susan B. Anthony, covering the great suffragist's early years as a Quaker in Massachusetts and New York, and her collaboration with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She and Stanton became the driving force that led to the eventual extension of the franchise to women after both of their deaths in the early 20th century. "Susan" relates her historic involvement with the Temperance and Abolitionist Movements in the early 19th century, her views on marriage and decision to remain single, and her experiences as the strategist and organizer half of the Anthony-Cady Stanton partnership. (*Note: Anthony spent some of her early years in Battenville, a hamlet of Greenwich in Washington County. That house is now on the National Register of Historic Places.*)
***The Nominating Committee (Joan Fuess, Chair; Sue Powers, Jackie Tremont, members) has come up with the following slate.** For a second three-year term ending 5/31/2019: *Anna Church, Dee Erickson*. For a first three-year term ending 5/31/2019: *Sharon Dawes, Wayne Evancoe, Jackie Tremont*. Nomination may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Please use the Reservation form elsewhere in this issue; reservation deadline is May 7.
- † **June 14: arts letters & numbers** is a new arts education organization here in town. *Frida Foberg* will join us to share information on their new home and to give us insight into their arts program. They are preserving "The House on the Hill" (on Burden Lake Road, formerly Burton's Golden Years Rest Home, a National Register designee). David Gersten founded the school to provide artist-in-residence opportunities and allow a wide variety of disciplines to cultivate a space that encourages collaborative and individual creation. Eighty students from as far away as Denmark already have taken advantage of the program, and they are pleased to welcome a new student arriving from Africa. Classes and workshops take place in one of the Faith Mills buildings, which they designate as "The Mill." 7:30 p.m., Sand Lake Town Hall.
- † **No regular meetings/programs scheduled in July and August; we'll be back September 13!**

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.

Sand Lake: Then and Now!

The free Smart Phone app, *Sand Lake: Then and Now*, 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. Images are being added continually!

If you'd like to share photos or if you have any questions about the app, call Town Historian Bob Moore 674-2026 x20 or bmoore@sand-lake.us

TR-SL DVD from SLHS



You will remember that, in April 2015, Teddy Roosevelt (a.k.a. Joe Wiegand) "revisited" Sand Lake to a sold-out crowd at The Old Daley on Crooked Lake. That April event was filmed and was shown in its entirety in November. Also

shown was a 1989 interview with Al Coons (then-owner of the Crooked Lake Hotel) that was made by a video club at Algonquin Middle School.

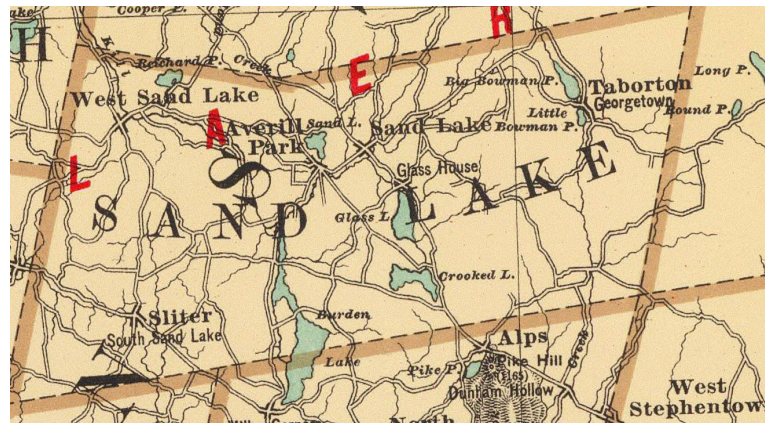
Westfield Production Company is generously providing the DVDs (with both features), which are for sale for **\$15** to the general public and \$10 for members of Sand Lake Historical Society. This is a great gift idea for local history buffs!

We hope to have copies available at membership meetings. You may also purchase copies at the Sand Lake Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Or write to us and enclose a check for \$10.00 plus \$3.00 shipping per copy. Please allow up to four weeks for delivery.

Hamlets of the Town of Sand Lake: [More] Then and Now

In the Winter issue, we noted that "Poor Taborton doesn't show on most earlier maps. In fact, we've looked at maps as late as 1953; none has any sign of Taborton!"

Good news: it turns out we just hadn't found the right maps. Taborton's right where it always was and actually does show on some maps! Here, for example, is an 1895 map of the Town, clearly showing Taborton!



Here's a small piece of another map, this one from 1941. Interestingly, the full map still shows "Glass House" as a hamlet as well! Finally, see page 6 of this issue!



“Fulton History” and memories

If you're not familiar with Fulton History, you're missing out on lots of fun and a great resource. <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> is a web link to, among other things, over 30 million US and Canadian newspaper pages scanned and



searchable. It's where I found the “*Teddy' Roosevelt Reported Once Sand Lake Visitor*” article quoted in the Spring 2015 issue of *Historical Highlights*. That article was just a small part of a full-page feature of that *Times Record* newspaper for August 12, 1958, devoted to “Sand

Lake Is Town Of Many Beautiful Homes, Popular Beach Resorts.”

We featured the ads in the Spring 2015 issue, but in addition to the little bit about Teddy, there were several other articles of interest, and we feature them below, just as originally printed!

New Schools Mark Growth of Community

The Town of Sand Lake is, first of all, beautiful country for homes and resorts.

Its lakes are strung like glittering beads, among them Reichards, Crystal, Glass, Crooked, Bowman and Pike's Pond.

Some of the township is in the mountains, as high and healthgiving as Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. Much of it is pleasant farm land. Many of the old farms have been purchased by "city people," remodeled and now are beautiful year-round homes. The township has grown by 800 in five years' time and with this growth has come new land developments and the building of many new homes.

In the summertime, the town is host to more visitors than any other town in the county, Crystal, Glass and Crooked lakes have bathing beaches which on hot summer days attract swimmers and sun bathers from miles away. The township has a public beach at Reichard's Lake. The Methodist Farm Beach on Crooked Lake draws many large church picnics as well as individuals.

Secluded Bowman Pond at Taborton has attracted many distinguished guests, among them Bertram P. Tallamy, federal highway administrator who makes his permanent home there.

Town's Business

The resort business and the Faith Mills at Averill Park are the town's "big business."

The town's most important cultural development is its beautiful schools including the new Averill Park Central High School, opening this fall; the Middle School, formerly the high school; the Miller Hill elementary school, the West Sand Lake Elementary School and St. Henry's parochial school which is now under construction. Sign of the rapidly growing population, is the school construction program.

The town also has many churches, some of the structures of historic importance.

Another sign of progress is the Averill Park Merchants Assn., 60 per cent of whose members are veterans of World War II. The association, with Harry O'Donnell as president, works for the good of the community, "business and otherwise." The association played a big part in having a section of the Averill Park-Troy road blacktopped, work which will be continued in 1959. Delegations have gone to the state to urge blacktopping of the entire length of the heavily traveled road.

The association now is working to get sidewalks from Averill Park to Sand Lake village and a branch bank in Averill Park. As a civic minded group, the merchants also sponsor Christmas baskets for the poor and community trees.

Youth Program

The town has a popular recreation program for young people which has operated for more than ten years during the summertime. The program is for young people from 5 to 7 years of age and is in charge of Joseph Warren Jr., with Mrs. Nicholas Sowalsky as playground supervisor at West Sand Lake school grounds and Mrs. Angelo Petti as playground supervisor at the Middle School playground.

Attendance has averaged 75 youngsters, at each of the playgrounds this summer. The program is now in its last week after six weeks of activity. The youngsters are at the playgrounds from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. They have games, handicraft work, moving pictures on rainy days and swimming on fair days. The youth program is open to all who wish to attend.

Sand Lake Doll Museum Attracts Many Visitors

Children of all ages visit the Antique Doll Museum in the village of Sand Lake. When Mr. and Mrs. F. Raymond Eauclaire bought the former James K. Averill residence, a landmark in Sand Lake, Mrs. Eauclaire moved her collection of dolls there. She has one of the most extensive collections of dolls, doll houses and doll furnishings in the country.

One wing of the stately Averill house is used for the museum. The old general store, doll size, in which tiny bolts of calico in authentic patterns, miniature apothecary bottles and all kinds of "penny candy" in miniature are exhibited, is one of the favorite exhibits. Mrs. Eauclaire has been working on the collection since girlhood.

Sand Lake Boasts Many Lakes, Ponds

The Town of Sand Lake has more lakes and ponds than any other township in Rensselaer County.

The lakes include Crooked Lake, Glass Lake, Crystal Lake, Reichards Lake and part of Burden Lake. Then there are Long Pond, Round Pond, Pike's Pond, Mud Pond, Lyons Pond and Big and Little Bowman, designated as ponds on most county maps.

There are also many ponds so small that they do not show up on the maps but are still available as "old swimming holes" or picnic sites to the favored few who know where they are located.

Settlement of Sand Lake Area Started Before 1767

Settlement of what is now the Town of Sand Lake began before 1767. An ancient map of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck of that date shows two settlers, Adams in the southwestern section of the present town and Brett a little to the north.

Much of the western part of the town was settled by Holland Dutch and the family of Andreas Wederwax (later Weatherwax) settled in the southwestern part before the Revolution.

Among the early settlers were many names still well known in the town: Hastings, Uline, Fellows, Thomas and Lape in the West Sand Lake area; Gabler, Gregory, Carmichael, Peck, Sliter, Coons, Frothingham, Fox, Knowlson, Arnold, Calkins, Averill, Snyder, Burroughs, Bailey, Vickery and Crape in the Averill Park and Sand Lake area; Sipperly and Cipperley, Younghans, Reichard, Miller, Momrow, Teal, Gundrum, Feathers Ferguson, Hitchcock, Hoffman, Greenman, Mosher, Ryemiller, Weger and many others.

Faith Mills Long Major Industry

Faith Mills Corp, of Averill Park, long a major industry in the Town of Sand Lake, says that business is improving and that the outlook is good. The mill now employs 175 local people and manufactures men's underwear, both winter weight and light weight, and the Navy approved "thermo underwear" which is warm in winter and cool in summer.

Faith Mills Corp. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Flagg-Utica Corp., which has headquarters in New York City and other mills in the South. Arthur M. Butler of Averill Park is president of Faith Mills.

The mill is a thoroughly modern knitting mill, what is known as an integrated mill. Faith Mills buys the raw material, knits the yarn, makes and processes the underwear.

There have been textile mills in the Town of Sand Lake since the days of the Revolution. They have been an important part of the town's economy.

The late William D. Mahony, a prominent resident of Averill Park, was president of the Faith Mills for

many years. Mr. Butler has been associated with the business for years.

The mill formerly was operated on water power from the lakes of the vicinity. Several years ago the Faith Mills converted to electric current.

"Teddy" Roosevelt Reported Once Sand Lake Visitor

Tradition says that President Theodore Roosevelt once came to Sand Lake and stayed for several days at what is now the Crooked Lake Hotel. He is said to have climbed to the high spot called Bears Head which overlooks the lake and there tied his shirt to a tree. For years youngsters who have gone hiking to Bears Head claim they have seen fragments of Teddy Roosevelt's shirt still tied to a tree.

Town Now Owns Swimming Place

The Town of Sand Lake now owns a swimming place. Supervisor Joseph L. Fitzgerald said that the town has purchased the Reichards Lake Beach, has a permit from the Rensselaer County Health Department and is operating it as a recreation spot for people of Sand Lake. It is especially popular with residents of West Sand Lake, the community nearest to the beach.

The town employs a fulltime life guard at Reichards Lake Beach and also has greatly improved the beach. Many loads of sand have converted what was formerly a rather rough shore into a smooth, sandy, well kept beach.

957 Families Read The Record

Almost everybody in the Town of Sand Lake reads The Record Newspapers.

The 1959 Census showed there are 917 households in the town and the combined circulation of The Troy Record and The Times Record in the town is 951.

Since an average of three persons read the paper, there are 2,853 in the town, which had a 1950 census of 3,254.

William A. O'Neil is in charge of The Record Newspapers circulation for the town.

Historian Works On Book About Sand Lake Town

Harold C. Tift, historian of the Town of Sand Lake, has been working for many months on a history which involves most of Rensselaer County as well as his own town.

Included in it are many little known facts about the town. A section will be devoted to the Mohican Indians who once paddled their canoes on the lakes of the township and camped on the shores.

An Indian war canoe, pulled from Glass Lake near Mr. Tift's home is now in the State Museum at Albany.

After the Revolution many Hessian soldiers settled in the town, their names and ancient burial sites existing to this day.

Mr. Tiftt also has done much research on the Eastern Union Turnpike, part of the main route to Boston which carried the traveler up the mountain to Taborton and thence into Massachusetts. Some of the turnpike is still a well traveled highway, some is only a track through the woods.

Noted American Began Career In Sand Lake

Exactly 158 years ago this fall a young man made his appearance in the Town of Sand Lake "with his extra clothes tied up in s cotton handkerchief and his boots hung over his arm." He first inquired for a school and because he was "manly, energetic and perseverant" he soon became a teacher in a school on Taborton mountain.

He lived at a farm near the school, chopping wood mornings and evenings to pay for his board. He was William L. Marcy who, from his employment as a school teacher in Sand Lake, became surrogate, Supreme Court justice, state senator, U.S. senator, governor of the state of New York, secretary of war and then secretary of state of the United States. [*Ed. note: Mount Marcy, the highest point in New York State at 5,344 feet, is named for William L. Marcy. And to bring this full-circle so to speak, "Vice President (and former governor) Theodore Roosevelt was at [Marcy's] hunting camp, Tahawus, on September 14, 1901, after summiting Marcy, when he was informed that President William McKinley, who had been shot a week earlier, had taken a serious turn for the worse. Roosevelt and his party hiked ten miles down the southwest face of the mountain to Long Lake, New York where he hired a stage coach to take him to the closest train station at North Creek. At some point along the route, Roosevelt learned that McKinley had died, and so Roosevelt took the train to Buffalo to get sworn in as President. The route from Long Lake to North Creek has been designated as the Roosevelt-Marcy Trail.*]

Sand Lake Population Increasing

The Town of Sand Lake has increased by about 800 residents in five years time, the total population now being about 4,000, town officials say.

Growth of communities in the township has been so rapid that many problems have arisen and are being studied.

Communities once popular as summer resorts have had an influx of year-round residents. Camps on the numerous lakes have been remodeled to make them suitable for cold weather living as well as the summer months. Developments have sprung up in several sections of the township.

This has led to opening of more stores and other businesses, increase in use of the post offices at Averill Park and West Sand Lake, and a general step-up in all community affairs.

The Village of Averill Park which only a few years ago had only a few stores, now has supermarkets, an

unusually large drug store for a small community, a law office, doctors' offices, dentists office, veterinarians, and the prospect of s branch bank.

Merchants, Residents Seek Averill Park Branch Bank

The move for a branch bank in Averill Park, instigated by the Merchants Assn. of the village is going ahead with more than 1,000 signatures so far off people of the area who want such a bank and its facilities.

Boxes were put in the various establishments of the township with cards on which residents could indicate whether they wanted a branch bank. By September it is expected that these boxes will yield about 5,000 signatures. In the first week of September Boy Scouts of the township will make a house to house canvass of those who have not stated their thoughts about the bank.

It is estimated that there are 11,000 people in the area which the bank would serve. This includes Poestenkill and Stephentown.

Several banks are interested in the project, the Merchants Assn. says and are waiting for the results of the survey.

Harry O'Donnell is president of the Merchants Assn., Ben Silberg, vice president and Bernard Mantha, treasurer. Others who have been working with them on the project are Ray Eastman, Zane Bedian, Morton H. Shulman and Leon Smith of Averill Park, Joseph Quinlan [sic] of West Sand Lake, Albert Gifford of Glass Lake, all business and professional men of their communities; A. W. Coon and Anthony Shepis, hotel proprietors, and Arthur M. Butler, president of the Faith Mills Corp.

The committee, after a first look at the signature cards, has said that business establishments of the town are much interested, clergymen have expressed their interest, and the hotel, resort and beach owners, of which there are many in the town, also are much interested.

From the president

We have scheduled an exciting program for our annual meeting next month. Phyllis Chapman, who I have known for over 35 years, will be personifying Susan B. Anthony, one of America's most influential suffragists. Most of us know some of her history, but many do not know of her early life and connection to our area.

I was reminded of this by a telephone call that I received back in the late fall of 2009 from the regent of a local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter in Greenwich, NY. Claudia Blackler called me to come look at a small broken gravestone that had
(continued on back cover)

Old Journey's End - The Sushi House

Construction went on for a few weeks, the new sign is up, and The Sushi House is now open. We all wish this new business luck. It's a good time to look back on the building and its history.



The building dates back to the late 19th century and has been known as the Old Journey's End Hotel, the Elk Horn Hotel and the Arlington Hotel. It was also stop 22 on the Troy & New England Railway. As you can see in the photo, the trolley ran along what is now Rte. 43 so the front door of the hotel was on what is now Werger Rd.



Over the years many restaurants called this old trolley stop home. In the 1950s and 60s, Scotty's Journey's End was operated by Eve Ferguson and the all-you-can-eat buffets were very popular. In the late 1970s, Carol Philippi and her husband Robert, transformed the interior to a "garden like décor."

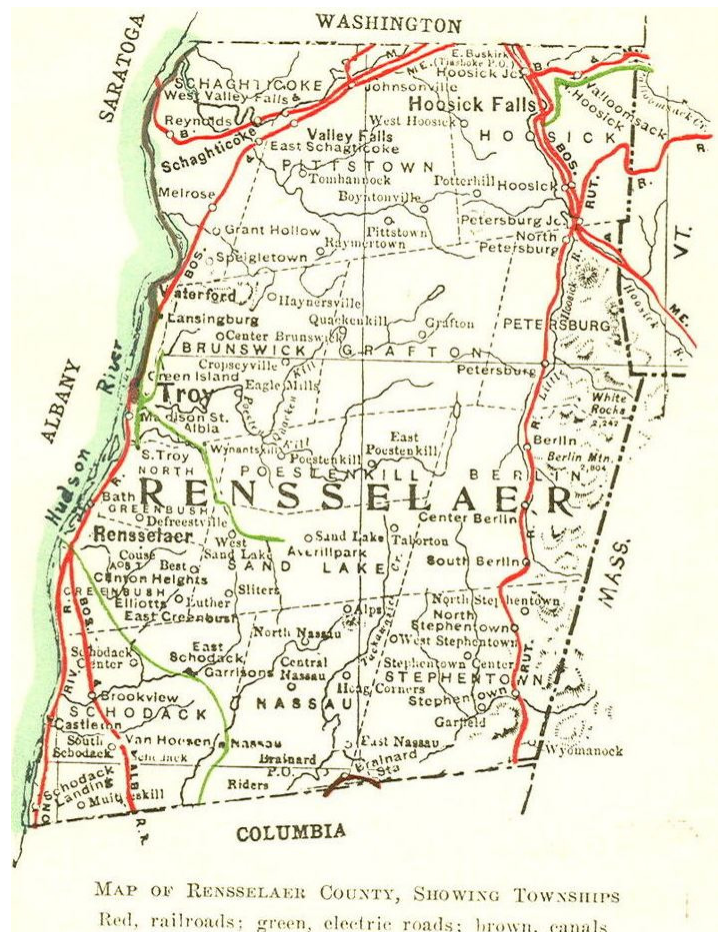
The Journey's End was noted for fine dining; Steak Diane, Veal Oscar and Chicken en Brochette Almondine were popular menu items. An old menu shows the Steak Diane, "A hand tenderized strip steak, seared and served in an herbed Cognac sauce costing \$9.95.

That brings us to the Arlington House Restaurant that most of us remember. Ed Murray, the owner and chef, also transformed the interior of the building and put on an addition expanding the bar area. The cuisine would best be described as fine dining with a satisfying pub menu available. It

was sad to see Ed close the Arlington House; and his staff, including Vic, the bartender and Michelle will be missed. It should be noted that Ed was very involved in the community and catered athletic banquets for many years.

I was thinking about how restaurants are important to our lives as they help us mark the time. Our family had an Easter dinner at the Arlington House a few years ago. It was one of the last dinners that Aunt Loretta was able to attend before she passed away. How many Fridays after school did teachers share camaraderie and a cocktail? Retirement parties, rehearsal dinners, if only the walls of the Old Journey's End could talk.
– Bob Moore, Town Historian, from The Advertiser, 2/11/16

Below is 1920 map of Rensselaer County. Yes, it shows Taborton; even more interesting is that it shows the route of the Troy & New England Railway. The green color doesn't show in printed copy, but it is the line (left center) running very roughly Southeast from Troy to Averill Park. Note also the line below that; this was the Albany Southern Railroad. – Ed.



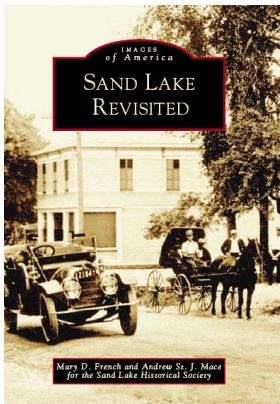
been discovered while doing some landscaping at a private residence in Battenville, NY, just east of Greenwich. The Willards Mountain Chapter wanted to have the marker restored and reinstalled in its proper place. I inquired why this stone, for a two-year-old girl, was so important to their group. She responded: it belongs to Eliza T. Anthony, Susan B. Anthony's little sister. I had heard a few years earlier of her childhood home being acquired by New York State, but I had never been there.

Susan's family moved to Battenville, NY, from Adams, MA, when she was just six years old and lived in this house during her teen years. Her father, Daniel Anthony, became successful business partners with John McLean until the Panic of 1837. Bankruptcy and other business failures forced them to move, eventually to the Rochester, NY, area in the 1840s.

The small marble tablet stone was found, face down and broken in two pieces, being used to support some flower planters in the garden of a neighboring house. The DAR was contacted, and they took on the responsibility for its care, including return to its rightful location. The DAR had in 1917 recorded the grave stones of the burials in the nearby Battenville Cemetery. Eliza was recorded being buried near her grandparents Daniel and Susannah Read. In April 2010, I met with the DAR in the cemetery, and the appropriate location was chosen for resetting the repaired stone.

On the way back to our cars, I noticed a similarly small gravestone, lying flat and broken in several pieces, partially covered with debris. We stopped and brushed back some of the leaves and dirt, only to notice the first name Anthony. The Claudia mentioned how some Boy Scouts had cleared some brush and had discovered this little stone. She remarked how wouldn't it be nice if we could do something with this gravestone as well. Upon examination, it was determined to be a good candidate for conservation. Careful excavation and cleaning revealed the identity of the individual for whom it was placed there so long ago: Anthony, son of Aaron M. & Guelma McLean. Aaron was the grandson of John Mclean, and Guelma Penn Anthony (named for William Penn's wife) was Susan's older sister. This was the grave stone of Susan's nephew; it too was repaired and reset.

On a Sunday afternoon in June, the Willard's Mountain Chapter NSDAR held a ceremony to celebrate those short lives and to rededicate the newly reinstalled grave stones. Although both children were buried in Battenville Cemetery, their importance to and influence on the family can be proven through their memorialization in the family plot in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY, decades after their passing. Thus, preservation of these two small pieces of history can help tell the much larger story of Susan Brownell Anthony, one of the most important women in history. — *Joe Ferranni*



<http://sandlakehistory.org>
E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com
Historical Highlights
Andrew Mace, Editor/Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society

Membership Application/Renewal 2016-2017

(Please print clearly)

New Member 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) _____

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

Feel free to write one check for the total amount of membership/renewal AND your dinner reservation(s)!



Sand Lake Historical Society

May 10, 2016, Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservation

(Please print clearly)

Please mail by May 5, 2016, if you are planning to attend!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Dinners (\$15.00 each) _____ 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

Feel free to write one check for the total amount of membership/renewal AND your dinner reservation(s)!