



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 44, Number 1

Our 44th Year

Fall 2017

From the president

Our September meeting was held at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts! There was standing room only as over 150 amateur detectives, the local community and *Twin Peaks* fan came to hear David Bushman from The Paley Center for Media in New York discuss "Who Killed Hazel Drew?" and how her story became the inspiration for the television series. Bushman is coauthor of *Twin Peaks FAQ: All That's Left to Know About a Place Both Wonderful and Strange* (2016). The program also featured a preview of local filmmaker John Holser's documentary film on Hazel Drew's life and death, along with Ron Hughes and his book *Who Killed Hazel Drew?*

It is an exciting year to come! The Sand Lake Historical Society has new board members, and they have added a new energy! Last year was ours to get our feet on the ground: we reviewed our records and our bylaws, and began updating our "infrastructure" in all areas. We are now in the process of taking a full inventory of our collections, our displays and our library. We are adding members to all our committees.

One new committee has to do with developing historical districts/homes/markers. In the Schumann Road area, neighbors have already begun the research, and so we hope to join forces to make our first district happen.

Editor Andrew Mace continues to produce our *Historical Highlights* newsletter, and we might add a fourth edition. His writings always contain historical information as well as news of the Society.

We are making our presence known in the community through participation in church fairs and in collaborating with other local organizations. In addition to our highly successful September meeting and those listed below, *Who Killed Hazel Drew?* author Ron Hughes will join us in March. In April we will continue with our annual event at The Old Daley on Crooked Lake. — *Joan Fuess, President*

Our fall issue, and our 44th season of programs, looks at centennials local (*Methodist Farm*), statewide (*Women's Suffrage in New York*, topic of our October program) and national (*U.S. entrance into World War I, from a local perspective*). There's also a statewide Bicentennial, that of the beginnings of the Erie Canal. Our November program will look at that from the always entertaining and informative viewpoint of local author Jack Casey. More inside!

Upcoming programs

Tuesday, October 10: Troy City and Rensselaer County Historian Kathy Sheehan presents **Wild Women of Rensselaer County**, a program on both local Suffragettes and Anti-Suffragettes. Special guests and pioneers of the Women's Movement will include Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who organized the nation's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, and Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffrage leader who campaigned for the Nineteenth Amendment. 7:30p.m., Sand Lake Town Hall. This presentation is sponsored in part by a Humanities New York Action Grant. *[More information on related programs inside! — Ed.]*

Tuesday, November 14: Jack Casey will discuss his historical novel ***A Land Beyond the River***, which portrays New York State's rise to national preeminence as "The Empire State." Hudson Valley heiress Eleanora Van Rensselaer falls in love with a "real man" from the west, ship captain Daniel Hedges, a smuggler on Lake Erie. The War of 1812 ends their affair; however, they reconnect and join forces to assist DeWitt Clinton in realizing his vision, a 363-mile canal across NYS (Bicentennial: 1817-2017). As always Jack will enhance his discussion with a few songs, canal songs this time. 7:30p.m., Sand Lake Town Hall.

Upcoming Programs (continued)

Tuesday, December 13: the Sand Lake Historical Society will celebrate the holiday season with a party, 6:00 p.m. Ron and Barbara Neu Berti will once again generously host this event. Their historic and spacious home, located at 42 Schumann Rd. in Sand Lake, will be all "decked" out in holiday finery. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Langleys. Carolynn plays the mountain dulcimer and Gene the autoharp. Feel free to join this enjoyable, welcoming group.

Please bring a side dish, salad or appetizer to share, plus a nonperishable food item (for Doors of Hope). Homemade desserts will be provided by the SLHS trustees.

Gifts of history

Have you found someone to give a copy of *Sand Lake Revisited*? The Society realizes a 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. 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" circa 1915 at Methodist Farm at Crooked Lake; Hikers dressed 1928 style at Camp VanSchoonhoven; Victorian lady rowing her dog on an 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.



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 public and \$10 for members of Sand Lake Historical Society. This is a great gift idea for local history buffs!

We will 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.

Dues are due!

If the mailing label on your newsletter says 2017, or if that date is mentioned in the e-mail in which you receive this newsletter electronically, your dues for 2017-2018 are due., and this will be our last issue unless you renew! We hope you'll rejoin us for what promises to be a great year of programs and events!

SLHS web site and Facebook

Don't forget to keep checking our web site: <http://sandlakehistory.org>! It's as up-to-date as possible for programs and events, and we're constantly adding new material and features.

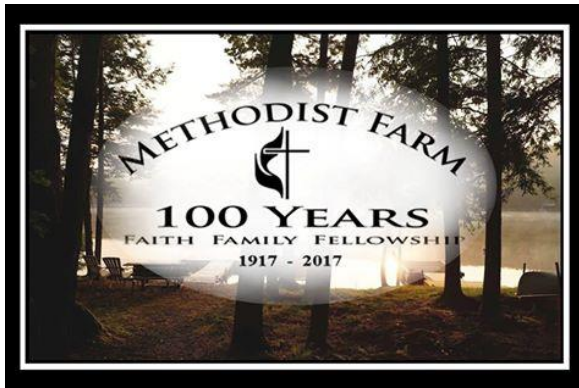
And, if you haven't already done so, look for us on Facebook! It's a great place to get the most up-to-date news on meetings and events, along with other items of interest from us and from other places and groups in the Capital District. And occasionally, you'll see things you won't see in our newsletter or the website!

We've developed quite the following beyond our members, and the Facebook page proved a true "lifesaver" when our web site provider had server problems that prevented us from updating our web site just as we were beginning to promote the "Big Band Gala" in April 2016. Just since the beginning of June 2017, we've grown from 145 to 180 "Likes"!

[https://www.facebook.com/SandLakeHistorical Society/](https://www.facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety/) — "Like" us...and enjoy!

Centennial: Methodist Farm

A brief history. In 1911, the Methodist Sunday School Association of Troy and Vicinity, Inc., was formed. Teaching the lessons of the Bible to the



young was a primary mission of the Methodist Church, and in most churches the Sunday School Superintendent was a very important member of the congregation. On June 28 of that year, a Union picnic was held at the Warren-Tibbitts Grove in Beman Park in Troy; more than 6000 members of local Methodist churches came to enjoy speakers, games and, of course, food. From this and other gatherings came the idea that the Union should seek a permanent location for picnics and camping.

The Union purchased 52 acres on Crooked Lake in Averill Park. The Union was then incorporated in 1917 as the Methodist Sunday School Association and the deed to the 52 acres passed to the Association. There was an inaugural picnic attended by more than 1000 church members who travelled by trolley to Averill Park and by hack and wagon to the Farm. It was a wonderful day with food, games, music, speeches and prayer.

In the 1930s, wooden walls were added to the



existing tents to make them into more permanent camps. In one instance, a retired Troy trolley car was transported to the Farm and converted into a camp. Many changes have occurred over the years, but the basic purpose of Methodist Farm remains unchanged; it is still a community based on Faith, Family and Fellowship.

The Farm invited the community to celebrate their 100th anniversary on August 18, 19, and 20. Activities included games, entertainment and a "museum of memories." Video remembrances of the Farm were recorded all day Saturday. — *Bob Moore, Town Historian for the Town of Sand Lake*

Methodist Farm Timeline.



8-31-1805 – Stephen Van Rensselaer III (*left*) leases land in Sand Lake to Thomas Upham, location unknown.

11-1-1853 – James Knowlson buys the leases to 80 properties, including Thomas Upham's,

from Stephen van Rensselaer IV, the heir of Stephen van Rensselaer III.

5-2-1855 – Knowlson sells the 50-acre Methodist Farm property, with meets+ bounds described, to Ezekial Upham for \$100.004-17-1862 – The heirs of John Upham, deceased, son of the deceased Ezekial Upham, sell the 50 ac. to William Clements for \$1861.89. (The farmhouse and barn may have been built during Ezekial Upham's tenure given the greatly increased price of the property.)



Above image is part of an 1876 Beers map, with reddish shaded area showing approximate boundaries of what would become Methodist Farm. Below is an early image of the farmhouse.



7-21-1896 – William Clements' mortgage is foreclosed to James Goold.

8-5-1897 – Goold sells the 50 acres to Florence E. Stiles for \$950.00.

4-3-1916 – Stiles sells to J. Wesley Wood, Trustee, for \$10.00.

6-3-1922 – Wood sells to the Association for \$1.00. — *Compiled by Gifford Fogle*

Methodist Farm Residents Genealogy and Census Information. Ezekial Upham is the first person who definitively lived on the farm. He owned the farm for over 6 years until his death. Given that Ezekial bought the property for \$100.00 and his heirs sold it 7 years later for \$1861.89, he probably built the farmhouse and barn after purchasing the property in 1855. But as improvements are not mentioned in any of the property deeds it cannot be determined with absolute certainty. The house and barn may have been built previously, during the tenancy period.

William Clements married Martha Upham, Ezekial Upham's daughter. In 1857 William bought 100 ac. of land in Sand Lake and moved to town from West Troy. They had 4 children living with them – William Jr, 16; Ebenezer, 14; John, 10; and Mary, 5. Additionally their son Nelson Clements, 17, lived with John Upham, his uncle and Martha's brother, and worked as a farm laborer on Upham's farm elsewhere in Sand Lake.

In April 1862, upon Ezekial Upham's death, the property was sold to William Clements, Ezekial's son-in-law. He and his family moved into the farmhouse along with Polly Upham, Ezekial's widow and Martha's mother.

On September 3, 1862, Nelson Clements, now 19, and William Clements Jr., now 18; William Clements' sons enlisted in the 169th Regiment to serve in the Civil War. On July 3, 1864, Nelson Clements died during the Siege of Petersburg, Va.

In 1865, after the war's end, William Jr. returns to the farm and works as a farmer with his father and younger brother John.

By 1875, all of the Clements' sons had left the farm. The youngest daughter, Mary, had married Samuel Fryer, and he and William are listed as farmers in the census. Daughter Mary and another daughter, Marietta, are listed as making collars.

In the 1880 census, William Clements, now 73, is listed as a retired farmer, and son-in-law George Fryer is listed as the sole farmer at the farm. It is unclear what happened to Samuel Fryer or to which Clements daughter George Fryer is married.

In 1896, after residing at the farm for 32 years, William Clements, now 89, could no longer pay his mortgage, and it is foreclosed by James H. Goold. It is unclear, but doubtful, that Goold ever lived on the farm. He is listed as already living in Sand

Lake at the time of the foreclosure and died about one year after the foreclosure. His widow and executrix, Emma L. Goold, is listed as living in Nassau when she sells the farm to Florence E. Stiles in 1897.

Florence Stiles was only 24 years old when she bought the farm. She was the last private owner before it became the Methodist Farm; she owned it for 19 years. During her tenure it became a poultry farm. In the 1910 census her much older husband, B. Franklin Stiles, 79, is listed as a poultry farm employee. Florence, 41 years younger than Franklin, may have been the boss of the farm and her husband worked for her.

Another possibility is that the unnamed member of the Methodist Sunday School Association mentioned in the History of the Methodist Sunday School Association, and held an option on the farm, was running the poultry farm for Florence Stiles. The history says he held a chicken dinner at the farm for the Association members, where they looked over the farm and decided to buy it to become a camp. — *Compiled by Gifford Fogle*

From *The Troy Times, Troy, N. Y., Tuesday Evening, August 12, 1919.* CHARMS OF CROOKED LAKE. Trojans as Visitors. *“The various other cottages about the lake are all occupied... J. Wesley Wood and family are occupying the farmhouse at the Methodist Farm.*

“The Methodist Farm. Quite an extensive tent colony has sprung up this season on the Methodist Farm, which occupies a conspicuous site on the south side of the lake, and the tents dotting the hillside form a pleasing spectacle.

“Nightly big bonfires are the rule as the campers sit about, roasting corn and frankfurters, toasting marshmallows or popping corn....”

More about Methodist Farm can be found on our web site. <http://sandlakehistory.org>; from the home page, click on *Methodist Farm's 100th Anniversary*.

Centennial: Suffrage-related events in October-November

In addition to our October 10 program, several other events will take place in Town, all supported in part by a Humanities New York Action Grant awarded to Sand Lake Center for the Arts.



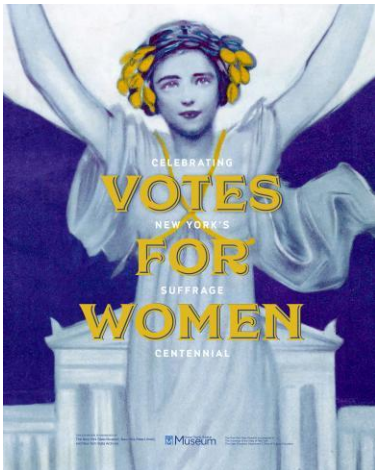
October 12-14, 7:00 p.m.:
arts
letters &
numbers
Siena College Creative Arts Department performs at **arts letters & numbers. Votes for Women** is an immersive, promenade performance about the

women's suffrage movement in the United States, written and directed by Dr. Krysta Dennis and performed by Siena students, faculty, and professional actors. Audience members will attend a suffrage march and visit a number of moments from the suffrage movements in various spaces around the house and grounds.

<http://www.artslettersandnumbers.com/calendar/2017/10/13/votes-for-women>

November 4 at 7:00 p.m.: The Sand Lake Town Library will host a discussion on the book *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life*. On **November 7 at 3:30 and 4:00 p.m.,** Election Day Storytime features a reading of the book *Duck for President*. <http://www.sandlaketownlibrary.org/>

On November 11 at 8:00 p.m., Sand Lake Center for the Arts presents “**Forward into Light**” **The American Women’s Suffrage Movement in New York State in Song & Story**. Enlightening narrative and songs that women sang during the suffrage movement between 1848 and 1920. A dynamic, two-act concert tells the story of how American women won the right to vote. <http://slca-ctp.org/forward-into-light/>



The New York State Education Department and the Office of Cultural Education will present a large-scale exhibition and companion catalog titled, *Votes for Women: Celebrating New York’s Suffrage Centennial*, at

the New York State Museum between November 4, 2017, and May 13, 2018. *Votes for Women* will celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage in New York State and raise public awareness of the struggle for women’s suffrage and equal rights in New York State from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through 1917 when New York State granted women the right to vote. The exhibition will also address the nationally significant role of New York State leaders regarding women’s rights and the feminist movement through the early 21st century.

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/votes-for-women>

Centennial: World War I and Sand Lake

The American entry into World War I came in April 1917. At the time, the U.S. Army was small compared with the mobilized armies of the European powers. As late as 1914, the federal army was under 100,000, while the National Guard (the organized militias of the states) numbered around 115,000. The National Defense Act of 1916 authorized the growth of the army to 165,000 and the National Guard to 450,000 by 1921, but by 1917 the federal army had only expanded to around 121,000, with the National Guard numbering 181,000.

By 1916, it had become clear that any participation by the United States in the conflict in Europe would require a far larger army. While President Wilson at first wished to use only volunteers to supply the troops needed to fight, it soon became clear that this would be impossible. When war was declared, Wilson asked for the army to increase to a force of one million. Indeed, six weeks after war was declared, only 73,000 had volunteered for service. Wilson accepted the recommendation by Secretary of War Newton D. Baker for a draft. Under the guidelines set down by the Selective Service Act, enacted by the 65th Congress and effective May 18, 1917, all males aged 21 to 30 were required to register for military service. [from Wikipedia]

The Troy Times for Tuesday Afternoon, July 17, 1917, published “County Names. Eligible For Draft In Division Two. The Towns Included. The List With Serial Numbers of Men in Hoosick Falls and Other Towns — Should Be Kept For Reference.

“The Times herewith publishes the names, with serial numbers, of men in Division 2 of Rensselaer County subject to draft, the drawing for which will soon take place at Washington...The list should be preserved so that when the numbers are drawn in Washington the names can be readily determined.”

Below are Town of Sand Lake names (with serial numbers) culled from that list, sorted by “hamlet.” Many familiar surnames from the Town appear on this list. (Note: Names in *italics* in this section appear on the **Sand Lake World War I Honor Roll**.) AVERILL PARK: 1365. Devere H. Castle*; 1362. Edward Evers; 1366. Stanley Stephens; 1375. John Miller; 1380. Edward Arnold; 1381. Darwin Yerdon; 1382. Edward G. Claren; 1383. Joseph W. Wiegand; 1387. Harold F. Dustin; 1390. Charles O. Ernst; 1391. Norman F. Taylor; 1394. Joseph H. Fischer; 1396. Delton H. Flint; *1397. Fred A. Graffunder*; 1398. Howard H. Hull; 1399. Henry F. Swankey; 1400. John Hoffman, Jr.; 1401. Walter C. Swankey; 1408. James R. Ives; 1404. Gordon D. Hull; 1405. George W. Houser; 1406. Charles H. Heffner; 1483. John H. Ackner; *1485. Clarence Appel*; 1486. Charles H. Werger; 1487. John C. Abel, Jr; 1488. William Wallace; 1439. John I. Brown; 1490. John C. Warger; 1493. Walter Teal; 1496. William J. Bailey; 1499. Leonard J. Cann; 1501. William H. Cusack; 1502. Andrew M. Sowalskie; 1503. George H. Calkins; 1504. Joseph F. Stout; 1505. William F. Calkins; *1506. Leroy F. Smith*; 1507. George H. Cann; *1508. Lester G. Smith*; 1509. Glenn Casey; 1512. Henry C. Stanley; 1513. William H. Deckett; 1515.

Edward Deckett; 1517. Henry H. Suppes; 1518. *Josiah O. Dawes*; 1519. William Eaton; 1520. Amos Shelby; 1523. Frank G. Evers; 1525. Joseph Filkins; 1526. Joseph Rogers; 1528. John M. Rubeck; 1529. Albert Flaxmyer; 1532. Charles W. Gifford; 1533. Emil Nesen; 1537. Charles W. McClellan; 1538. Colin W. Garstang; 1539. *Earl S. Mohl*; 1540. Lawrence J. Gruber; 1541. Edwin B. Herrington; 1542. *John E. McCarthy*; 1544. Michael J. Miller; 1546. Frederick Momrow 2nd; 1547. Percy E. Horton; 1549. Frank M. Hack; 1550. *Wilbur H. Lasch*; 1551. *Frank W. Horton*; 1552. *David Latson*; 1554. Henry L. Karl; 1556. William H. Karl; 1557. George Hogle; 1560. *Charles H. Horton*; 1600. Fred H. Gentner [Grafton-Averill Park]; 1623. Frank H. Beach; 1630. Stanley A. Shepard; 1644. Walter C. Stock; 1684. Orin J. Meddaugh.

SAND LAKE: 1484. John Dudar; 1491. *Dennis B. Warren*; 1492. Otto E. Bower; 1494. *Harry E. Brown*; 1498. *Clarence C. Bailey*; 1500. Frank Smith; 1510. *Clarence Dobert*; 1516. *Aaron F. Dibble*; 1522. Charles S. Rundle; 1524. Frank Lyman Esmond; 1527. Leslie W. French; 1531. *Enoch L. French*; 1534. Archie J. Goyer; 1543. Clarence O. Horton; 1548. Guy M. Lester; 1556. Walter J. Heffner; 1558. Fred W. Horton.

TABORTON: 1322. Charles E. Smith; 1329. Willard H. Momrow; 1331. Walter G. Momrow; 1495. Charles H. Teal; 1497. Albert J. Teal; 1511. *Frank Snyder*; 1514.

Andrew Snyder; 1521. Daniel Engwer; 1530. Louis Palmer, Jr.; 1535. August L. Meyers; 1553. *William Hoffay, Jr.*; 1559. Reinhard Iffland; 1561. J. George Iffland.

WEST SAND LAKE: 1356. Wm. H. Taylor; 1378. Michael A. Murphy; 1408. Peter Zeramian; 1409. *Harold L. Abbott*; 1410. *Shirley B. Zweig* (misprinted in paper as *Ziveig*); 1411. *Elmer Angle*; 1412. Sydney A. Wallace; 1413. Justin J. Burwell; 1414. *Chas. W. Whiteford*; 1415. John F. Bradwell; 1416. Burton Van Buren; 1417. Nelson A. Brookner; 1418. John G. Utz; 1419. Elmer C. Barnes; 1420. Haig Tapalian; 1421. Arthur A. Shaver; 1422. Clarence P. Binck; 1423. Ernest H. C. Sweet; 1424. Geo. West Bradwell; 1426. Wilson F. Shillinger; 1426. Clarence E. Bame; 1427. Edward Sonkes; 1428. Wm. H. Bradwell; 1429. Chester H. Sparr; 1430. Wilbur J. Bower; 1431. Arthur Reynolds; 1432. I. Raymond Cipperley; 1483. Seymour J. Ryemiller; 1434. Clayton J. Coons; 1435. Benton F. Rudhill(?); 1486. Ernest Coons; 1437. George Darian; 1438. *Henry L. Roaser*; 1439. Armenag Darian; 1440. George Etman; 1441. Arthur J. Ruppert; 1443. Frederick A. Kessler; 1444. Gilbert C. Fisk; 1445. Huran Oumedian; 1446. Floyd L. Foster; 1447. Chas. H. Miaski; 1448. *George M. Fellows*; 1449. William A. Green; 1450. Joseph N. A. Miaski; 1451.

Zenas Greenman; 1452. Sylvester L. Hermance; 1453. Oliver Moran; 1454. Peter J. Hitch; 1455. Ervant Morlian; 1456. *Arthur A. Hayner*; 1457. Harry W. Miller; 1458. Henry J. Hempstead; 1459. Edmond A. Miller; 1460. Geo. I. Harrington; 1461. Vahan Morlian; 1462. Howard T. Hidley; 1463. Walter Martin; 1464. Harvey G. Higgins; 1465. Lester Middleton; 1467. Mugurditch Hatzakordzian; 1468. Stephen E. Miller; 1469. *Joseph A. Hestover*; 1470. Herman G. Mastio; 1471. Harold H. Johnson; 1472. Maxim Kranz; 1473. Alfred V. Middleton;

1474. M. J. Keyes; 1476. Warren A. King; 1478. George E. Murphy; 1477. Harry R. Kinnicutt; 1478. Earl Lape; 1480. William E. Lape; 1481. Edward C. Lerch; 1482. Charles H. Laibach; 1536. Arthur J. Green.

* Pvt. Devere H. Castle (Army) is listed on the *World War I Roll of Honor: Rensselaer County, New York* as "R. F. D. 2, Poestenkill, N. Y."; died of pneumonia, October 25, 1918.

Sand Lake World War I Honor Roll. (Note: Names in *italics* in this section appear in the *Times* article; it is presumed that the other names are those of man who volunteered. This monument was dedicated 6/30/30 and stood at the "Sand Lake School" until it was moved the Veterans Memorial Park in 2011.) Names on the tablet, in alphabetical order: *Abbott, Harold L.*; Acknour, Henry; Adams,

George; *Angel, Elmer*; *Appel, Clarence*; *Bailey, Clarence C.*; Baker, Walter; Bowman, Nelson; Brodt, Henry J.; Brookner, Nelson B.; Brown, Clarence; *Brown, Henry E.*; Brown, Phillip; Budesheim, Peter, Jr.; Caulkins, William; Clickner, Clarence E.; Cole, Howard J., Jr.; Cole, Howard J., Sr.; Coons, Clayton; Coons, Ernest; Crippen, John W.; *Dawes, Josiah O.*; *Dibble, Aron F.*; *Dobert, Clarence*; Effland, George; Engwer, Conrod; Ernst, Casper; *Fellows, George M.*; Filkins, Edward; Filkins, Lewis; *French, E. Lloyd*; *Graffunder, Fred*; Greenman, Zenas; Hall, Ralph; Hamm, Harold; *Hayner, Arthur*; Hess, Charles; *Hest[r]over, Joseph*; *Hoffay, William H., Jr.*; Hoffman, Adam W.; *Horton, Charles H.*; *Horton, Frank*; *Lasch, Wilber H.*; *Latson, David*; *McCarthy, J. E.*; McClellan, Charles W.; *Middleton, Alfred*; *Mohl, Earl S.*; Nash, Edward; Patchin, Nelson; *Roaser, Henry L.*; Roberts, John C.; Rubeck, Charles H.; Rupert, Arthur; Ryemiller, Seymour; *Smith, Leroy*; *Smith, Lester*; *Snyder, Frank*; Temple, William; Tiftt, Harold; Uline, Charles; *Warren, Dennis B.*; Warren, Hugh; Weatherby, Jacob; *Whiteford, Charles W.*; *Zweig, Shirley*.

**Sgt. Walter A. Adams (Army) was killed in action, October 13, 1918. The American Legion post in Averill Park is named for him.



Jerry Lewis worked here!

This past August, ~~long time~~ *extremely short-term* Averill Park resident and renowned comedian Jerry Lewis passed away. Lewis spent some time living in the Burden Lake area as a 16-year-old around 1942-43. He did attend high school here during that time, and yes, he did actually work for Benjamin Silberg at the Park Pharmacy, by that time located where "House of Pizza" is today. (SEE: *Historical Highlights*, Volume 3, Number 2, Winter 2007.)

Less than 10 years later, Lewis had become a major star as part of the comedy team of Martin & Lewis. The team appeared at the RPI Field House on October 29, 1952. According to an article in the *Schenectady Gazette*: "Preparing for the Troy visit, Lewis sent a note to his old employer Benjamin N. Silberg, proprietor of the Averill Park Pharmacy. He asked him to drop around to the hotel and say hello, and invited him to be his guest at the Field House performance.

"In the letter, Lewis referred to his former job as 'soda jerk' in Averill Park, reminisced about the pharmacy's pin ball machines, and closed with the invitation to Silberg and his wife."

But it didn't stop there! In 1963, Lewis appeared at the Palace in Albany to promote his film *The Nutty Professor*. *Times-Union* columnist Edgar S. Van Olinda wrote about Lewis's days in Averill Park: "According to his boss, Mr. Silberg, Jerry was 'sweet on' a girl who worked in a delicatessen store down the street. He employed all the tricks for which he has since become famous to carry on a courtship under the eyes of her disapproving uncle. Even at that early age, Jerry had a yen to be a producer. But his talents were not appreciated and his offer to put on a variety show for the benefit of one of the churches got 'thumbs down...'

"Mr. Silberg admitted that Jerry did work for him behind the ice cream counter, when he wasn't playing the pin ball machine. 'We even, today, have a Jerry Lewis Special which gets a big play after all those Intervening years.'"

In 1971, Lewis appeared at the Colonie Summer Theater. He again reminisced about his Averill Park days. From the *Schenectady Gazette*: "I have very fond memories of Averill Park. I learned to drive there and I learned how to jerk sodas."

"...The [Park Pharmacy] was across the street from the home of his aunt, Mrs. Betty Weisenthal. Jerry lived with her while his show business parents were on the road..." "Lewis' employer, Ben Silberg later dubbed a giant sundae the 'Jerry Lewis Special' in recognition of Jerry's stint behind the soda fountain."



This *Gazette* photo (Sid Brown, photographer) shows Lewis and Silberg enjoying a sundae at the Thruway Hyatt House.

In Memoriam

We note with great sorrow the recent passing of members Stanley Supkis, Ken van Praag and John Allendorph, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

An apology from your Editor

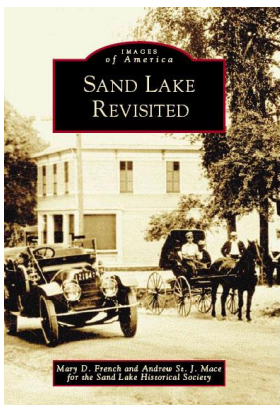
*Life is what happens to you while you are busy making other plans** or if your computer crashes, or....We are extremely late with this fall issue, and we apologize. [*From a John Lennon lyric, originally attributed to writer/cartoonist Allen Saunders.]

Mailboxes fundraiser

Congratulations to winners Tom & Bonnie Lilly, Dee Erickson, Barbara Spath, Jodie Nazarian, Aaron St. Onge, Chet Opalka, Liz Duffy, Dale Gersch, Sidney Smith, Patricia Warden, Sue Herton, Nancy Perry, Chris Wasyl. And thanks to Key Bank, the Town Hall and Library and Old Daley at Crooked Lake for allowing us to display the mailboxes!

Officers and Trustees of the Society 2017-18

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Historical Highlights

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