



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

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Our 47th Year

Winter 2021

From our president

The *good* news is we have lots of programs planned! The *not awful* news is that we just have to take each month as it comes. It's more important than ever to check out our Facebook page or sandlakehistory.org, as well as *The Advertiser*, where we will keep you updated. Also, feel free to call me at 518-527-9926.

I have received several responses on my request for information on whether anyone had attended or had family attend one of the one-room schoolhouses in our town. Some were in neighboring towns and then joined the Averill Park Central School District. If you go to our website and click on "[Markers](#)," you can see the District 1 School House marker on Sheer Road. [Ed. note: You can also read about the 11 pre-1929 school district schoolhouses at sandlakehistory.org/schools.htm] Our hope, with help of the Society and families and friends of those who attended, is to have markers for all 11 structures or sites someday. We're still looking, so contact me if you have some information.

In March, we hope to have our "*Sand Lake Show and Tell II*" where you bring anything you have from days gone by. Bring memories, too; I was thinking how many of us went to Drs. Meeler or Reid or dentist Dr. Dunn!

I hope all is well with you and your families and friends. – *Jacqueline Tremont, President*

In this issue:

Hi! My name is Andy, and I will be your editor for this somewhat late and abbreviated Winter issue. For "appetizers" we have a note from our president, information on – hopefully – future program presentations as well as past events, information on the new military banners program for the Town and more. For an entrée, we have information on dating your house!

NOTE: You may remove your masks while reading this issue of *Historical Highlights*!

Upcoming programs

1 **March 9, 2021*: *Sand Lake Show and Tell II*.** What's in your attic, cellar, closet, or junk drawer? Do you have old photos from a party at the Glass Lake House, one of Grandma picking up her new Ford from Ed Rendert's dealership? Perhaps you have a shot of you working at the soda fountain at the Park Pharmacy (please note said photo does not have to include Jerry Lewis, although that would be very cool). You might have an old glass milk bottle from Higgins' Maple Dairy, Bon Acre or Dobert's; matchbooks from O'Donnell's Liquor Store or the C.A. Wicks Agency; an old gift box from The Village Shop; a pennant from Fox's Wild Animal Farm; an ice scraper from Werger's Mobil Station; or a post card from Tiffit's Beach? Did you keep a scrapbook with newspaper clippings and programs from Lyric Theater, 4-H, or Little League? Join us March 9 and bring whatever

you have at home relating to the Town of Sand Lake to share and talk about. We'll take a few minutes and try to talk about everything brought. It's part of your history, but it's also part of Sand Lake's history! So, look in those closets and attics! It promises to be a walk down memory lane. **NOTE: We can to accommodate up to 25 in person at Sand Lake Town Hall for the March 9 program; PLEASE CALL 518-527-9926 TO RESERVE A SPOT! Please also note that this meeting will *not* be broadcast or recorded.**

1 **April 12*:** Barns and barn history. (Tentative)

1 **May 10:** Our annual meeting; location to be announced. (Tentative)

1 **June 8*:** Strawberry Social; history of Methodist Farm. (Tentative)

* Programs held at 7:00 p.m. in the Court Room of Sand Lake Town Hall, 8428 NY 66, Averill Park. *COVID precautions will be followed. Watch your email, the website and Facebook for updates on these programs!*

Recent past programs

- 1 **November 10, 2020:** West Sand Lake resident Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) John Brownrigg discussed the *Four Freedoms We Celebrate on Veterans Day* along with recent and ongoing community efforts to commemorate our veterans. Following his presentation, Brownrigg joined fellow area veterans William W. Glasser, Jr. (USA, 1968-71), Paul Glasser, Jr. (Corporal, USMC, 1989-93), and Shari Mantini (Captain, Nurse Corps, USAF, 1986-96) for a recollection of their most memorable military experiences.
- 1 **February 9, 2021: Adam Blake, Jr., Entrepreneur.** Adam Blake, Jr. was the adopted son of a former slave who was in the employ of Stephen Van Rensselaer. Despite little formal education, he went on to become one of the most successful businessmen and entrepreneurs of any race in 1800s Albany. He is perhaps best known for his Albany Kenmore Hotel; while the Kenmore was being built, Mr. Blake managed the newly reopened Averill Park Hotel in the Town of Sand Lake! Blake was portrayed by Donald Hyman, an Albany educator and writer well known for his many performances in the Capital District acting community.

Please note that the March, October and November 2020 and February 2021 programs were recorded and may be viewed. Links may be found on our website at sandlakehistory.org/past-programs.htm

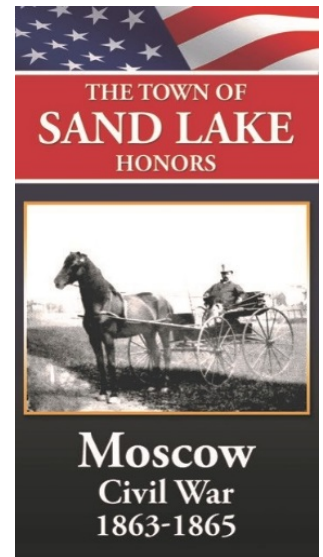
Amazing Graves II

The Sand Lake Center for the Arts presented *Amazing Graves II* on October 17-18 at (and as a benefit for) Sand Lake Union Cemetery. Featured were Mary and Angelo DiDomenica; Sheriff Willard Griggs and Smith "Big Thunder" Boughton; Elisabeth Saunders (also representing those in Potter's Field); Luther Horton and James Clark, Civil War soldiers (Clark had been the owner of Moscow, "Civil War horse"); Jennie Averill; and William Taylor (uncle of Hazel Drew). SLHS sponsored video recording of the event, and DVDs are available; email us for more information <<mailto:sandlakehistory@aol.com>>.

Military banners for Sand Lake

A Military Banners program has been launched by the Sand Lake Town Board. Eligible honorees or their families must have called Sand Lake their home at some point in their lifetime. There is a fee of \$200 for the banner, and a picture of the honoree, preferably in uniform, is required. The first honoree is Moscow, the Civil War Horse of Col. James K. Averill (SEE: *Historical Highlights*, Vol. 28, No.2).

More information and application at www.townofsandlake.us/index.asp?SEC=EF8179E0-5D33-450D-911B-DB175860E3C8



SLHS online

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 you might see things you won't see in our newsletter or on the website!

Our page is getting noticed more and more! In December 2019, we hit a milestone: 500 likes! And if there has been *any* benefit to us during the pandemic, it is that more and more folks are discovering and liking our Facebook Page. On October 15, 2020, we hit 600 likes, and less than three months later, **700**, along with a number of other "followers." As of January 12, 2021, number 700 is Linda Martino of West Sand Lake! Welcome to the Sand Lake Historical Society! As we go to press, we stand at 717 members.

New on Facebook in September 2019 was **Sand Lake (NY) History**, a companion *group* to our **Sand Lake Historical Society page**. This group allows members to share information and to ask or answer questions about our Town's history. This, too, is proving popular, currently with over 400 members!

Follow the link on our website or go to www.facebook.com/SandLakeHistoricalSociety — "Like" us...and enjoy! There's a link to the Sand Lake (NY) History group from that page. And there's always our web site, [sandlakehistory.org/!](http://sandlakehistory.org/)

How to date your building (and obtain other useful information)

Introduction. There are many houses and other buildings that can be classified as historic structures. Such properties, as defined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, are structures that are at least 50 years of age, and have architectural, cultural, or historical significance. Some guidelines for dating your building, when an exact date or close approximation date is not known, are given here.

Procedures. Talk to older people who have lived in your area all of their lives and who may have been given information by their parents or grandparents. Take down all information given by them. This is known as oral history.

Even though the above method may produce valuable information, it may not be altogether accurate because people may forget details or fill in information based on what they think may have happened. Try to find documentation as a source of facts. County, town, city, and village histories are an excellent source of accurate information. Other possible sources are historical societies, longtime librarians, and the building department.

Source Documents:

- 1 *Deeds* - The County Clerk's Office is the repository of all deeds. Deeds trace transfer of title to property back to the first owner, provided all deeds were recorded.
- 1 *Tax records* - These may be found in town or other government offices.
- 1 *Town (or other government) registers* have names and addresses of residents.
- 1 *Census records* - Census began in 1790. It has information on occupants and value of the property.
- 1 *Court records* - These may have resulted from real estate disputes. Local lawyers will know if there are such records.
- 1 *Insurance policies* - Fire insurance policies contain information on age and condition of property.

Other Documents might include town, county or local histories; family genealogies; county maps; surveyor's maps; architect's drawings; old newspapers; letters and/or diaries; and photographs or post cards.

Architectural Styles. Some of the more common styles and approximate dates are listed. These styles may have been duplicated in later years. *Dutch Colonial* - 1625 to 1840; *Colonial* - 1690 to 1760; *Federal* - 1780 to 1820; *Greek Revival* - 1820 to 1860; *Gothic Revival* - 1835 to 1880; *Italianate* - 1840 to 1885; *Mansard* - 1855 to 1885; *Second Empire* - 1855 to 1885; *Stick* - 1860 to 1890; *Colonial Revival* - 1880 to 1955; *Queen Anne* - 1880 to 1910; *Italian*

Renaissance - 1890 to 1935; *Craftsman* - 1905 to 1930; and *Modernité* - 1920 to 1940.

Architectural Features. Doors, windows, roofs, fireplaces, beams, framing, nails, types of wood and others provide a key to date the property. However, some degree of expertise is required for this method of dating and identifying significant features. A knowledgeable person should be consulted.

Books. Numerous books on researching house/building histories and other details of property are available in libraries and bookstores, such as *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*, by Sally Light (Golden Hill Press, 1989); and *A Field Guide to American Houses*, by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Knopf, 1984). Among periodicals, *Old House Journal* provides valuable information. Finally, the Preservation League of New York State, located in Albany, can be contacted for additional references. - taken from a pamphlet prepared by John C. Kacharian, Preservation Consultant for The Sand Lake Historical Society in 1990 and updated a bit!

Editor's notes. Some things have changed in 30+ years. For one thing, at least one major category is missing from John's "styles" list: Mid-Century Modern, which covers much ground from 1945 through the 1960s and is not necessarily related to the Modernité style John mentioned!

Another style you don't see in John's list is the ever-popular "Victorian" style...and that's pretty much as it should be, as the term more properly refers to an era rather than any one style. Queen Victoria reigned in Great Britain from 1837 to 1901, which is a pretty lengthy era! What many typically refer to as Victorian are usually either Queen Anne or Italian Renaissance (Italianate) houses. (As Queen Anne ruled from 1702-14, some of those later 19th century houses might better be described as "Queen Anne Revival"!)

The separate listings of "Mansard" and "Second Empire" might be questioned. Typically, Mansard refers more to a unique style of roof. Second Empire-style houses almost always feature Mansard roofs, but those roofs can be found on houses of Italianate, Queen Anne, Romanesque or High-Victorian Gothic styles as well. Finally, some categories might be known by other names, e.g., "Craftsman" might also refer to "Arts and Crafts."

Styles and dates shouldn't be taken too literally or strictly. Transitions from one style to the next were often gradual. Some styles "lingered" either in whole, or in older elements that found their way into yet other styles. Occasionally, one will see a house added onto several times, each addition reflecting as much of its then-current era as that of the original structure. In some extreme cases, extensive remodeling(s) can change the character of a house so greatly that it can be almost impossible to determine a date of first build

or original style without documentation or very careful structural examination by experts!

Since this was first written, much information has become far more accessible, thanks to the Internet, digitization of photographs and documents, and ever-increasing interest in preservation. Libraries, archives, historical societies and even long-time residents all continue to be excellent starting points.

Many old newspapers can be searched online by keywords, so there's less poring over huge bound volumes or scrolling through roll after roll of microfilm. Comprehensive and *free* sites include <https://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> and <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>.

And for those of us who still like books and magazines, many more titles are available these days, as general as the aforementioned *A Field Guide to American Houses* (available at the Sand Lake and East Greenbush libraries) or as specific as *Bungalow Bathrooms* (Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 2001)!

Town of Sand Lake: Yesterday and Today

Town Historian Bob Moore has put together a YouTube video featuring views of sites past and present in our town: Young's Pharmacy; the former Trolley Depot (original Tremont Lumber Co.; gone); the Averill Park Hotel site (now Church of the Covenant); the old and new Lakeview Hotels; Traveler's Rest (now Miller's Automotive); the Neasco gas station (now Jiffy Mart; Crape's Central Hotel (now Grand Auto Sales); "Keeler's Hotel" (Glass Lake Hotel, now TBA); Mike Miller's Store, WSL (now a parking lot); and the Brewster House (now Walgreen's). See: <https://youtu.be/nCwgx0gCcmA>

Capital Region Memories

A new book, *Capital Region Memories: A Pictorial History of the mid-1800s through the 1930s*, has been published by the *Times-Union* in conjunction with Pediment Publishing. The book is a hardcover, coffee-table style keepsake featuring images of Albany area history from the mid-1800s through 1939 and include images from surrounding Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties. The Sand Lake Historical Society is just one of many local entities contributing to the book; over half a dozen Sand Lake-related images are featured. The book is available for \$44.95

Officers and Trustees 2020-2021

Officers: *Jacqueline Tremont (2022)*, President; *Jane Minotti (2021)*, Vice President; *Sharon Dawes (2022)*, Recording Secretary; *Rosemarie Sniezyk (2021)*, Corresponding Secretary; *Michelle Mosher Schultz (2023)*, Treasurer.

from <https://www.pediment.com/products/capital-region-memories-history-book-vol-i?variant=32619785289809>, and a copy has been added to our library collection (available at the Sand Lake Town Library).

SLHS member notification list

Those of you who have shared your email address with us should be familiar with our list called "slhs-members@googlegroups.com." This is an *announce-only* list to quickly get word to members regarding cancellations, postponements and/or program reminders; it is *not* a discussion list. Postings generally run about 1-2 per month, and you will be offered the opportunity to opt out.

Especially now, this list can be a quick way to get information to you, our members. We're happy to add members whose email address was not on file; just let us know by emailing sandlakehistory@aol.com.

This will supplement any notifications on the School Closing Network (local TV stations and newspaper websites) or on our Facebook page and website.

Seeking Tremont calendars

The Society is looking to complete its *virtual* collection of calendars issued from 1961-1987 by the Tremont Lumber Company. We seek to borrow calendars for the following years: **1967, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976** (two different calendars that year), **1980, 1985, and 1987**. We will scan and return them to you. Please let us know at sandlakehistory@aol.com if you can help!

Your SLHS membership

With this issue of *Historical Highlights* (or separately in the mail if you receive the newsletter electronically), members will receive new membership cards. For those who receive the newsletter via postal mail, your label will have a code above the address such as **2022 F** or **2200 L**. The number is the year your membership expires. Letter codes are **I** for Individual membership; **F** for Family; **LI** for Lifetime Individual; **LF** for Lifetime Family. **S** indicates a Sustaining Member; **H** indicates Honorary Lifetime Member; **C** indicates a Complimentary membership. (Other codes are used to indicate various categories of "Courtesy" members.)

Trustees: *Holli Boyd-White (2021)*, *Peter Finn (2022)*, *Michael Perry (2022)*, *Nancy Perry (2023)*, *Jim Powers (2023)*, *Sue Powers (2021)*, *Wayland Whitney (2023)*, *Ann Winnicki (2022)*.





Sand Lake Historical Society
Membership Application/Renewal 2021-2022
(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: Email or Postal Mail *(check only one)*

Do you have any particular historical interests or expertise? If so, please let us know:

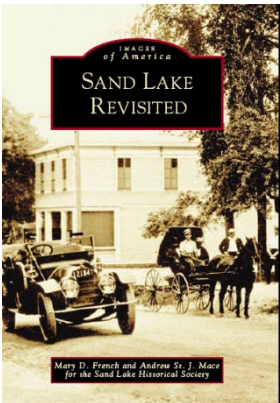
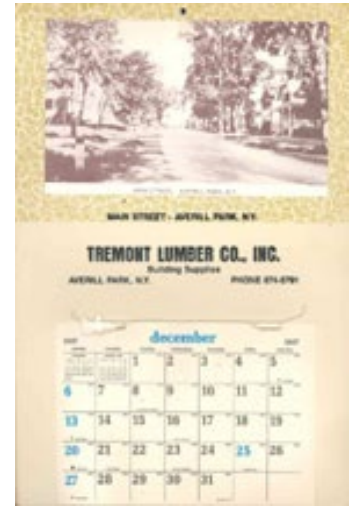
Total enclosed: \$ _____

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

NOTE: Memberships run from June 1 through May 31. New memberships will be good through 5/31/2022!
Winter 2021



Left: one of two calendars issued for 1976 by the Tremont Lumber Company; **right:** calendar for 1987, the last year issued. The Sand Lake Historical Society seeks to borrow these, along with calendars for several other years. More information inside!



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



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