

March 1976

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

From The President's Desk -

Can't you bleed....

We're approaching our second annual meeting, our first as a chartered historical society, and we have much for pride. Our numerous accomplishments - projects completed - have given way to vital and active works-in-progress. The Society is alive and well. And it's healthy because numerous members favor our organization with their labor and time to accomplish what they think ought to be done to promote the appreciation of history and culture in the Town of Sand Lake.

I'd like to illustrate this point but it wouldn't be fair if not complete and I just don't have the space for that, so I'll leave it to you, dear reader, to think of examples. Think of the ways that you like the Sand Lake Historical Society and then imagine, if you will, what labor and love is expended to make it that way. Think, rather, be assured that what makes the Sand Lake Historical Society tick are the involvements of people whose lives are already beleaguered by other demands. Just like yours. Think, too, that if you like what the Society is doing, then maybe you ought to be taking part. For sure, there are jobs waiting to be done which could use you. Can't you bleed an extra hour or two from your weekly schedule to actively participate and grow with our Society?

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Slate of Officers -

The following are nominations from the Trustees, acting as the Nominating Committee, to be voted on during the annual meeting in May. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| President               | Bob Harris              |
| Vice-President          | Joan Fuess              |
| Secretary               | Beryl Vannier           |
| Corresponding Secretary | open                    |
| Treasurer               | Shirley Rescott         |
| Trustees:               |                         |
| 3 years:                | Louis Leitgeb, chairman |
| 3 years:                | Bob Lilly               |
| 2 years:                | Bernadette Bresnahan    |
| 2 years:                | Judy Rowe               |
| 1 year:                 | Doug Kelley             |

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Coming Events -

April 12 - The Postal History of Troy & Lansingburgh. Presented by Dr. Robert Harris, president of the Sand Lake Historical Society. A slide presentation including a brief history of post offices in Sand Lake as well as an exhibit of postal memorabilia.

May 10 - Annual Meeting. Program: Van Allen Homestead by Sam Swanson, present owner of this historic home. A talk concerning the history of the Van Allen house in Greenbush (Washington Avenue) and its original owner, John E. VanAllen, Congressman and surveyor, who played a part in Sand Lake history.

June 14 - A slide and tape program on the History of Rensselaer County prepared by the Rensselaer County Historical Society. Accompanied by Breynee Walsh, director.

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## Bicentennial Notes -

- May 5 - The Brunswick & Pittstown Bicentennial Commissions are coordinating efforts in the production of a Bicentennial cantata "Michael and Cornelia", based on the early life of the Vandercook family. This was written by the well-known Martha Carragan. Robert Claus of Tamarac High School will be the conductor.
- May 8 - The Schodack Bicentennial Commission will hold a big Bicentennial festival at Maple Hill High School. There will be booths, exhibits, and performances - all with a bicentennial theme.
- June 12 - Sand Lake Bicentennial Day - Parade starting at 10 A.M. from Miller High School to the High School with bands and floats. There will be a field day at the High School following, with refreshments, contests, games, etc.; fireworks at dusk; a block dance is planned for the evening with two bands; also, a hayride will be offered.
- June 26 - Nassau Bicentennial Festival
- June 26 - Pittstown Bicentennial parade and fair
- July 3 - Berlin Independence Day festival from July 3 to July 5, with a parade, fireworks, chicken barbeque, field day,, flower show, exhibits, and other attractions.
- July 4 - Special Bicentennial Barge Salute - Throughout Rensselaer County, Bicentennial committee and historical societies are rallying to the special idea of an observance to welcome the State's Bicentennial Barge to the Capital District. Launched by the County Bicentennial Commission, the project seeks to salute the week of July 4 with a special fete. A singular feature of the event is the establishment of a special site along the east bank of the Hudson River, across from the Port of Albany, where the Barge is to be moored. Cities, towns, and villages from all over Rensselaer County are being invited to place exhibits at the site, to help tell the story of the tremendous contribution to the growth of the world's youngest democracy made by succeeding generations of the County's citizens.
- Another outstanding aspect of the Barge Salute is the scheduling of special tours to places and events of significant historical interest. These will be carried out at various locations around the County during the week the Barge is moored in Albany. Representatives of groups wishing to participate in the Barge Salute are urged to contact Bredny Walsh, Executive Director of the Rensselaer County Historical Society, at 272-7232.
- July 4 - Sand Lake Bicentennial Commission reenactment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, in costume, at the Town Hall.
- August - The Greenbush Historical Society is planning a tour of historic sites in both East Greenbush and North Greenbush for August.
- Fall - The Sand Lake Bicentennial Commission is planning a tour of old houses and public buildings to start at the Town Hall. A booklet will be prepared by Jim Miller and Sanford Young with pictures, etc. for this tour.
- Early November - Sand Lake Bicentennial Commission - the third in "An Evening with Our Nation's Founders" series, concerning the letters of John and Abigail Adams, and "The Civil War as Seen Through the Eyes of a Soldier" by Bob Shuey will be presented.

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Books belonging to the Sand Lake Historical Society Library, most of which are available by order (those starred are no longer available):

"The Grafton (N.Y.) Hills of Home", by Ruch C. Bennett - 1974

"Tin Horns and Calico", by Henry Christman - 1945

Historical Society Lending Library (cont.)

- "Stubborn for Liberty", by Alice P. Kenney - 1975
- "Delaware and Hudson", by Jim Shaughnessy - 1967
- \* "Troy As We Knew It", by H. Irving Moore - 1974
- \* "A Visit To Old Troy In Pictures and Prose", by H. Irving Moore - 1973
- "Lansingburgh, New York, 1771-1971"
- "Pictorial History of West Sand Lake, 1776-1976", by Charles Viens and Sanford Young
- "History of Sand Lake", reprinted from Sylvester's "History of Rensselaer County" - 1880
- "History of Berlin", reprinted from Sylvester's "History of Rensselaer County", - 1830
- "East Albany and Beyond", by F.T. Tompson, H.M. Whish and J.M. Fraser - 1975
- "Greenen Bosch, The Early Years", by the same - 1974
- "Bath-on-the-Hudson", by the same - 1974
- "A Culture History of Rensselaer County", by John W. Fox - 1976
- "History of The Seventeen Towns of Rensselaer County", by A.J. Weise - 1975  
reprint
- \* "Our Yesterdays" (A History of Rensselaer County), by Stephanie Hicks Craib and Roderick Hull Craib - ca 1949
- "Architecture Worth Saving in Rensselaer County, N.Y.", by Bernd Foerster-1965

Contact Shirley Rescott, 674-5737, for information

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Dear Friends,

This will be my last issue of the Newsletter as I find it necessary to resign my position as Corresponding Secretary.

There are many thanks in order to the people who contributed articles and gave support during this past year.

Many special thanks to Paul Nash for all his labors. Also, to Mary Ellen Trumbull's class of Mentally Handicapped adolescents for their time in stapling, folding and stamping the Newsletter for me.

It has been an exciting and rewarding year for me. I have met many new friends and confronted many new challenges.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kathy Fasco