

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1977

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUMMER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED PARTICIPATION IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE BATTLE FOR BENNINGTON AT WALLOOMSAC AND ALSO A BAKE SALE AND IMPROMPTU PLANT SALE. THANKS TO CHAIRMEN JANE VAN PRAAG AND DOROTHY LEITGEB, THEIR HELPERS AND THOSE WHO DONATED, WE NETTED \$150. WE ARE STILL COLLECTING BOOKS FOR A FUTURE SALE.

OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR IS NOW BEING PREPARED BY KEN BROCK.

THE HOUSE TOUR COMMITTEE BEGINS PLANNING FOR THE BIG EVENT IN THE FALL OF 1978.

PLANS FOR SPRING WILL KEEP US EVEN BUSIER.

RESEARCH ON THE GLASS WORKS HAS MADE US AWARE OF A FUND OF INFORMATION ON OUR COMMUNITY HISTORY, WAITING AT STATE AND LOCAL LIBRARIES TO BE COPIED AND PRESERVED IN THE TOWN ARCHIVES. WE NEED TO INTERVIEW THE NATIVES OF SAND LAKE AND PRESERVE THEIR MEMORIES, AS THEY KNOW US AS WE WERE. WE NEED TO GATHER DATA BEFORE IT IS SCATTERED TO THE FOUR WINDS. TOGETHER, WE CAN WRITE THE HISTORY OF SAND LAKE AND ITS THREE VILLAGES.

IT'S GREAT TO SHARE IN THE EXCITEMENT OF COLLECTING HISTORY. WON'T YOU JOIN A PROJECT?

OCTOBER 10 MEETING - ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON OLANA, HISTORIC SITE IN HUDSON, N. Y., FORMER HOME OF FREDERIC EDWIN CHURCH, DISTINGUISHED 19TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE PAINTER OF THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL, PRESENTED BY MS. LINDA E. MCLEAN, THE ACTING SITE MANAGER.

NOVEMBER 14 MEETING - PANEL OF EXPERTS. BRING YOUR ANTIQUES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION. THERE WILL BE A SMALL CHARGE OF 25¢ PER ARTICLE.

DECEMBER 12 MEETING - H. LANSING MACE, AREA PHILATELIST WILL PRESENT A TIMELY PROGRAM, "CHRISTMAS IN THE POSTAL WORLD."

COURSES BEING OFFERED

OCTOBER 28 AND 29 - SEMINAR ON GENEALOGY
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON) IN LOUDONVILLE.

NOVEMBER 1ST - PRESERVATION OF OLD HOUSES: TROY CITY HOUSES
7:30 - 9:30 IN THE RENSSELAER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COACH HOUSE.
REGISTER THROUGH HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

NOVEMBER 5TH - HISTORICAL RESEARCH MINI-COURSE.
10 AM - 2 PM IN THE COACH HOUSE. REGISTER THROUGH HVCC.

NEWS OF OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY - THE SOCIETY IS TAKING ADVANCE ORDERS FOR THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF BRUNSWICK. THE BOOKS ARE \$7.50 IF ORDERED IN ADVANCE, AND \$12 AFTER PUBLICATION. ORDERS CAN BE PLACED WITH SHIRLEY RESCOTT, OUR BOOK CHAIRMAN. THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF BRUNSWICK FEATURES HUNDREDS OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, COLOR REPRODUCTIONS OF PAINTINGS, COPIES OF MURALS PAINTED ON THE WALLS OF BRUNSWICK HOMES BY THE NOTED ARTIST, JOSEPH HIDLEY, REPRODUCTIONS OF MAPS FROM THE 1700'S TO 1876, AND NEVER-BEFORE PUBLISHED MATERIAL ON BRUNSWICK COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY. THE TOWN'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND MUCH MORE.

ESQUATAK - FOURTH ANNUAL CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE FOR \$1.50 PER COPY.

POESTENKILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY - IF ANYONE HAS ANY PICTURES OR HISTORY OF POESTENKILL WHICH WOULD BE OF INTEREST, PLEASE CALL FLORENCE HILL AT 283-6743.

RENSSELAER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - OCTOBER 10, MEETING. SLIDE TALK ON HUDSON RIVER STEAMBOATS BY DONALD RINGWALD, AUTHOR AND PAST PRESIDENT OF THE STEAMBOAT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER 14 - 8 PM. FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY PARTY. "AN EVENING WITH RICHARD POTTER; A NATURAL MAGICIAN." A PERFORMANCE IN THE CONJURING STYLE OF THE 1820'S BY RICHARD OLSON OF STURBRIDGE VILLAGE.

DECEMBER 7 - TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND GALA DINNER.

DECEMBER 8 - CHRISTMAS GREENS SHOW BY VAN RENSSELAER GARDEN CLUB.

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - AT THE OCTOBER 3RD MEETING, ROBERT MEADER, FORMER CURATOR OF THE SHAKER MUSEUM IN OLD CHATHAM, SPOKE ON "SHAKER RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS."

UNDEGROUND FAIRLAD

IF ANYONE HAS ANY INFORMATION ON THE UNDEGROUND FAIRLAD, PLEASE CALL JUDY BOWE AT 674-2388. THIS MIGHT BE INFORMATION ON HOUSES USED BY ANGSTERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS MOVEMENT.

THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

BACK AT THE TIME OF THE DRUIDS, NOVEMBER 7 WAS THE FEAST OF SAMHAIN, THE END OF THE YEAR. ON THIS DAY, SAMHAIN CALLED UP THE SOULS OF THE DEAD. PEOPLE EXPECTED THAT THE GHOSTS WOULD BEGIN TO APPEAR AT MIDNIGHT WHEN THE DAY ACTUALLY BEGAN, SO AN OILY THOUGHT OF GLEANING. THEY GATHERED TOGETHER TO KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY ON THIS REVEREND NIGHT, AND SINCE THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULD NOT ENJOY THEMSELVES ONCE THEY GOT TOGETHER, SHARING THE HARVEST OF APPLES, NUTS AND OTHER WHICH WERE JUST READY AT THAT TIME OF YEAR. THIS WAS A PERFECT NIGHT FOR FRANKSTERS, FOR ALL HOUSES WERE WELLED. HALLOWEEN WOULD BE BLAMED ON THE GHOSTS. ALL THIS STARTED LONG BEFORE NOVEMBER FIRST BECAME ALL SAINTS DAY. HALLOWEEN - OCTOBER 31ST "ALL SAINTS" DAY - NOVEMBER 1ST "FROM DAYS AND CUSTOMS OF ALL FATHERS," BY REV. HOWARD V. PARKER

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