

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1978
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

THE MONTH OF JANUARY WAS APPROPRIATELY NAMED FOR JANUS, THE ROMAN GOD OF TWO FACES; ONE LOOKING INTO THE PAST AND THE OTHER INTO THE FUTURE.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ICE AND SNOW CANCELLED OUT THE FIRST MEETING OF 1978. HOWEVER, THIS IS A BRIGHT NEW YEAR BRINGING NEW AND RENEWED ACTIVITY.

KITTY MACE HAS LINED UP SOME INTERESTING PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH, AND WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE IN RESCHEDULING WILLIAM SKERRITT AND "THE ART OF SCRIMSHAW," FOR OUR APRIL MEETING.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING AN ANNIVERSARY DINNER IN MAY WITH SPECIAL AWARDS. ALSO, IN THE MONTH OF MAY WE WILL REVIEW OUR ACTIVITIES AND ELECT NEW OFFICERS.

WE WILL PROJECT, FOR OUR FIFTH YEAR OF EXISTENCE, A PROGRAM ON THE GLASS WORKS, A SERIES OF SLIDE PROGRAMS ON OUR VILLAGES DEVELOPED BY CHUCK VIENS AND MADOLYN CARPENTER, AND OUR HOUSE TOUR THIS FALL.

OTHER PROJECTS ARE IN THE WORKS, SO BE SURE TO KEEP INFORMED THROUGH MEETINGS AND NEWSLETTERS. YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE HISTORY!

JOAN FUESS, PRESIDENT

JANUARY 9 MEETING - CANCELLED BECAUSE OF STORMY WEATHER. WILLIAM SKERRITT, SCRIMSHAW ARTIST, SCHEDULED FOR THIS MEETING, WILL GIVE HIS PROGRAM, "SCRIMSHAW, OLD AND NEW," AT THE APRIL MEETING.

FEBRUARY 13 MEETING - YVONNE WELCH, LOCAL FIBRE ARTIST AND DESIGNER, WILL GIVE A SLIDE LECTURE ENTITLED, "STITCHERY, OLD AND NEW." MRS. WELCH IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL OF AMERICAN EMBROIDERERS, AND THE EMBROIDERERS GUILD OF AMERICA.

MARCH 13 MEETING - VELMA BUSHELL, WELL-KNOWN BUTTON COLLECTOR, WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM, "BUTTONS ARE ART."

OUR SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO SHIRLEY RESCOTT, WHO SPENT TIME AND ENERGY ESTABLISHING OUR LIBRARY AND BOOKSTORE! WE REGRET THAT SHE HAS CHOSEN TO RESIGN. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT, AND IF YOUR TALENTS LIE IN THE LIBRARY FIELD, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING PERMANENT HOUSING FOR THE BOOKS SO THEY WILL BE ACCESSIBLE AT ALL MEETINGS.

AT THE DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WE ACCEPTED WITH REGRET, THE RESIGNATION OF LOUIS LEITGBE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. LOU WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TRUSTEES AND SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THAT BOARD. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED AN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO LOU LEITGBE FOR HIS DEVOTED SERVICE AND WISE COUNSEL TO THE SOCIETY. HE WILL BE SO HONORED AT THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER IN MAY. TO FULFILL LOU'S TERM ON THE BOARD, GEORGE "BOB" DUNWORTH WAS ELECTED AT THE DECEMBER MEETING.

ALSO IN DECEMBER, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED TO PURCHASE A KEYSTONE EVER-FLASH CAMERA TO RECORD OUR EVENTS. SUSAN HARRIS WILL BE ASSISTING CHUCK VIENS, OUR OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

ON JANUARY 30TH, THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY HELD A MEETING AT THE HOME OF MYRA WEHNAU IN WEST SAND LAKE.

ON FEBRUARY 8TH, MIG CIPPERLY HOSTED THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT WAS DECIDED TO OFFER MEMBERSHIPS TO SENIOR CITIZENS AT HALF PRICE ON A TRIAL BASIS THIS YEAR.

OUR 1978 HISTORICAL CALENDAR IS STILL AVAILABLE. BE SURE TO GET YOURS. THE PICTURES SHOW OUR TOWN AND ITS HISTORY, AND ARE A COLLECTOR'S ITEM. THE CALENDARS ARE ON SALE IN THE FOLLOWING STORES, OR YOU CAN PURCHASE ONE AT THE NEXT MEETING: AVERILL PARK MARKET, BON ACRE FARM STORE, GAUCH'S, GIFFORD'S MARKET, JUDY'S FABRIC SHOP, LAKE PHARMACY, MIKE'S SPORTING GOODS, MILLER'S SUPERMARKET AND THE PURPLE PARROT CARD & GIFT SHOP. THE PRICE IS \$1.50 PER COPY.

A PACKET HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONCERNING "THE STATE OF ART," AN EXHIBITION HELD RECENTLY AT THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM. INCLUDED WAS A HANDSOME SIXTY-PAGE BOOKLET WITH PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATING THE FOLK ARTS IN NEW YORK STATE, THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL, AND THE NEW YORK SCHOOL. THE PUBLICATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO RESIDENTS OF THE SAND LAKE/GLASS LAKE AREA

JOAN FUESS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY HAVE IDENTIFIED HOMES OF HISTORICAL VALUE WHICH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTRY. A SPECIAL INVITATION WILL GO OUT TO THOSE OWNERS AND TO ANYONE WITH SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA TO MEET, SHARE AND RECORD INFORMATION. PLEASE GATHER OLD PHOTOS, DEEDS, DIARIES AND FOLKLORE CONCERNING YOUR HOME. PLEASE CONTACT JOAN FUESS (674-2154) AND HELP OUR RESEARCH.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE BOOKS. WE WILL HAVE A BOOK SALE WHEN WARM WEATHER COMES. LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED STORAGE SPACE.

NEWS OF OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

ESQUATAK - ON FEBRUARY 17TH, THE SOCIETY WILL HOST A SPECIAL SLIDE AND LECTURE PROGRAM ON THE HISTORY OF THE STAATS HOUSE AND FARM ON PAPSCANEE ISLAND AND THE OLD FARMS AND HOUSES ON THE RIVER ROAD BELOW THE RENSSELAER CITY LINE. MEMBERS OF ESQUATAK'S SURVEY GROUP AND ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN STUDYING THE HOUSES AND HISTORY OF THE AREA BACK TO THE 1600'S. MEETING LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

RENSSELAER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - CONDUCTING A FUND RAISING DRIVE AIMED AT THE RENOVATION AND ENDOWMENT OF THE ADJACENT BUILDING AT 57 SECOND STREET, PURCHASED ABOUT A YEAR AGO. IN THAT BUILDING, THE SOCIETY IS PLANNING TO SET ASIDE A ROOM ESPECIALLY FOR THE USE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE COUNTY. MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO COME IN, PUT UP EXHIBITS, BRING A LUNCH, MAKE A CUP OF COFFEE, AND VISIT WITH THE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PEOPLE.

HISTORIC NOTES

FROM THE RENSSELAER COUNTY DIRECTORY OF 1870-71 - SAND LAKE FOLKS DID NOT HAVE TO LEAVE THE AREA TO LOOK FOR WORK. THE GAZETEER, PUBLISHED BY HAMILTON CHILD, LISTS MANY BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN OF SAND LAKE. THE TROY & NEW ENGLAND RAILWAY PROVIDED JOBS AS WELL AS TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN TROY AND AVERILL PARK. THERE WAS A WOOLEN MILL, OWNED BY JAMES AKEN, AND KNIT GOODS WERE MANUFACTURED BY KNOWLSON & KIDDER AND O. B. ARNOLD. COTTON WARPS, USED IN WEAVING, WERE MADE BY THE S. L. WARP CO., AND MERWIN & CO. OWNED A PAPER MILL. THERE WAS A CARRIAGE SHOP AT SLITER'S CORNERS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS STORES AND HOTELS IN THE AREA. THERE WAS CHARCOAL BURNING, AND TANBARK USED IN THE TANNING OF HIDES, BOTH SOLD IN TROY AND ALBANY.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN SARATOGA COUNTY - "BOOTH'S HISTORY OF SARATOGA COUNTY, WRITTEN IN 1858 BY JOHN CHESTER BOOTH. A LIMITED PRINTING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH VIOLET B. DUNN, SARATOGA COUNTY HISTORIAN, COST ABOUT \$5.00. THIS BOOK COVERS DUTCH AND ENGLISH CLAIMS, THE INTER-COLONIAL WARS, THE KAYDEROSS PATENT, EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND EARLY PROMINENT FIGURES IN SARATOGA COUNTY HISTORY; THE McDONALD BROTHERS, SIR WM. JOHNSON AND THE SCHUYLER FAMILY; THE INCIDENTS LEADING UP TO THE REVOLUTION, THE STORY OF JANE MCCREA, THE TORY CONSPIRACIES; ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF THE BURNING OF BALLSTON SPA AND THE BATTLE FOR SARATOGA. ALSO INCLUDED ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS, AND THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTY.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE SOCIETY WAS GRANTED A TEMPORARY CHARTER BY THE REGENTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK ON JUNE 27, 1975.

PRESIDENT: JOAN FUESS

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