

Reviews and Reminiscences
A Brief History
of the
Town of Sand Lake

SIDNEY S. GALLANT, SUPERVISOR

DEDICATION



This book is dedicated to Supervisor
Sidney S. Gallant,
who has faithfully, honestly and
fairly, served this Town for 27 years
and is a dedicated official.

NATURAL FEATURES AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

The Town of Sand Lake was formed from the Towns of Greenbush and Berlin, on June 19, 1812. Then in 1843, a part of Greenbush was taken off, and in 1848 the northern half was set off as a separate town under the name of Poestenkill. The Town of Sand Lake lies a little south of the center of the county. It is bounded on the north by the Town of Poestenkill, on the south by the Towns of Schodack and Nassau, on the east by the Town of Berlin, and on the west by the Towns of North Greenbush and East Greenbush. The area of the town is 21,968 acres, and the population as given in the census of 1875 was 2,572. The population of our Town today in 1979 is between 6,500 and 7,000.

The surface of the Town is mountainous in the east and hilly in the west. Perigo Hill, in the northeast corner of the Town rises to an elevation of 900 feet above tidewater; and Oak Hill near the center, is about the same height. The soil is very fertile in many parts of the Town. Agriculture and grazing have been carried on with success, and Sand Lake strawberries were among the finest produced in Eastern New York. The principal streams are Tsatsawassa Creek and Wynantskill Creek. Tsatsawassa Creek flows north and south through the eastern section of the Town passing down into Nassau. The Wynantskill follows a very irregular course, rising in Crooked Lake in the southern part of the Town. Then it passes northerly through Glass Lake, then westerly to Burden Lake and then northeasterly through West Sand Lake and the village of Wynantskill, and finally empties into the Hudson River at Troy. The east part of the Town is mostly covered by forest.

The first settlement of the Town was begun as early as 1767, but tradition has not handed down to us the name of the first person to settle in the Town. An old map of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck shows but two settlers within the present limits of the Town at that date. These were a family by the name of Adams, in the southwest part of the Town and another by the name of Brett, a little north of Adams. It is altogether probable that one of these was the pioneer family of the Town.

Early records of the town meetings in Sand Lake unfortunately are incomplete, but the first meeting was held soon after the Town was formed on June 19, 1812. The records do not furnish the date. Ebenezer Gregory was elected moderator and the first town officers chosen were three school directors, a poundmaster and fifty-eight overseers of highways. In those days the practice was to assign to each property owner, a certain number of days work per year on the road that passed through his area of the Town. They were chosen from all areas of the Town so that all the roads would be maintained, since the roads of that period were dirt and were little more than overgrown paths, they needed constant care. Some of the 58 "Overseers" that were chosen at that time were:

Jacob Lape - a farmer who lived a few miles northeast of Sliters Corners
Matthew Youngmans - early property owner on Route 150 north of
West Sand Lake Village.

Major Joshua Lockwood, co-owner with William Carpenter of the
first grist mill in the Town at West Sand Lake.

Solomon Taylor, the first storekeeper in Averill Park.
Joel Bristol, farmer on the east side of Burden Lake.
Clement Sliter, early tavern owner in Sand Lake Village.
William Butts, early settler who had large land holdings,
in the Sand Lake Village area.
Daniel Peck, farmer and sawmill owner in the Oak Hill area.

Following is a copy of part of a "Road Warrant" issued in 1881.

To: Daniel Wilkinson, Overseer of Highways in District No. 51 of the Town of Sand Lake, which begins at the Plank Road near Joseph H. Gablers Hotel, thence South to C. Wactles, also a road running to William Dunning's house. (Dunning's house was at the very end of Johnny Cake Lane). You will cause the several persons whose names are hereunto annexed, to labor on the highways in your district the number of days set opposite their names, or commute therefor at the rate of twelve and a half cents per hour for each day; two-thirds to be performed by the 1st day of June next, and the residue by the 1st day of September next.

This continues on for a whole page telling what they are required to do. Then it is signed by the Commissioners of Highways and lists the days and names of the men who have to work on this road.

Some of the other officers chosen at this first meeting were: Ebenezer Gregory, Moderator. He was an Averill Park tanner, farmer, harness and shoemaker. Uriah M. Gregory who was one of Sand Lake's first doctors, was one of the three School Inspectors chosen. Calvin Thompson, an early mill owner on the Burden Lake Road, was chosen as Supervisor. Town Clerk, was David E. Gregory, nephew of Uriah M. Gregory and son of Stephen Gregory. Laurence Van Alstyne, a West Sand Lake farmer on Best Road, was one of three Assessors chosen. One of three Commissioners of Highways was - John Stevens, an early store-keeper in Sand Lake village. Two Overseers of the Poor were chosen - Stephen Gregory, an early storekeeper in Averill Park, and Lew Bullock, an early tavern keeper on Route 43 near Thais Road. Jonathon Ford, was chosen as Tax Collector. He was a farmer and large land owner on Taborton Road. Three Constables were chosen: John Dunebarke, Henry Lord and Joanthon Ford. One of the three School Commissioners chosen was Joel Bristol, a farmer with a large tract of land on the eastern end of the first Dyke Road across Burden Lake.



ROADS - STAGES - STREETS

The first turnpike in Sand Lake was established about 1795, and extended from Albany to Berlin. The Troy and Sand Lake Turnpike was built in the year 1829 or 1830, and about this time Trojans began to interest themselves with us. William Franklin Averill kept the stage house at this time, and as there were no railroads it was not uncommon for twenty or thirty teams to stay over there on their way to the City. A short time after that the Eastern Union Turnpike was built. This ran through the village of Sand Lake and ended in Hancock, Massachusetts. At this time the stage was running on alternate days from Boston to Albany on the Eastern Union Turnpike and it would arrive with one mail from the west about midnight and about noon the next day from Boston. The stage driver always blew a large horn, warning of its coming. This could be heard a long time before the actual arrival of the stage. The people from all over the Town would meet at the stage stopping place and question the driver for any special news, for why should he not know when he was in daily communication with Boston and Albany.

A number of years later when the construction of plank-roads attracted the attention of the public, it was deemed judicious by those interested in maintaining a good road between the city of Albany and the Village of Sand Lake to obtain from the legislature the privilege of building such a road. On the 10th of April 1849, "an act to allow the president and directors of the Eastern Turnpike to sell a part or all of their road, and to form a plank-road from Albany to Sand Lake," was passed. By this act, Erastus Corning, David V.N. Radcliffe, Samuel S. Fowler, Richard J. Knowlson, Gideon Butts, Evert Van Alden, John DeFreest, James Dearstyne, DeWitt DeForrest, George Cipperly, Wynant Youngmans and their associates were constituted a company to construct and maintain a plank-road from the east side of the Hudson River opposite the city of Albany, through the Town of Greenbush on the most eligible route to the Glass Factory Village in the Town of Sand Lake. Although the planks, which were used in the construction of this road have almost disappeared from the road bed, the highway is still designated as the Plank Road.

The following is a copy of a newspaper clipping from the Troy Record, 1883, written by Mrs. Miranda Butts Carmichael, wife of Dr. Eber W. Carmichael. The Carmichaels were the parents of Mrs. Julia F. Lester. The manuscript is in the form of a story telling of the residents and customs at that time. It was written for the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Daniel and Margaret Wilkinson who lives on Johnny Cake Lane in the village of Sand Lake, (Averill Park), and celebrated their anniversary on March 2, 1883.

"The Village of Sand Lake is located on the Union Turnpike, between Albany and Boston, 11 miles from Albany. Theodore Gregory built a hotel in the village which was considered the largest of any in the country, but as it did not meet his expectations, he being of an ambitious mind, he went to Poughkeepsie and opened a hotel there and amassed a fortune.

Several of the Gregory boys came from Dutchess County and settled in the district. They were intelligent, high-minded people and their influence was generally felt in the community, as they were identified in reformatory movements. Joseph Gregory was a farmer and shoemaker. The fertile brains of some

of the boys gave the streets names. The street on which the Wilkinson house stands was Johnny Cake Lane. I do not know why it was so called, because if we had any aristocrats in Town they resided on this street. The main street leading from Sand Lake to Sliter's Corners and Glass House was called Hard Scrabble, and at this time we were lead to think it was on account of the incessant scrabbling that had to be done by the residents living on this thoroughfare to get their daily bread. East of this street and leading from John Gabler's house to Crooked Lake was called the Cow Path, as it was an extra road built to change the stage route from Sliter's Corners and Glass House. The only papers of the time were, the Albany Gazette, the Farmers' Register and the Budget from Troy. There was but one musical instrument in the entire village and that was an organ which had been brought from Boston."

The Troy-Stephentown Stage Coach Line ran between the Gifford House on Congress Street in Troy to Stephentown. In 1880 Henry L. Myers bought the line from James K. Averill and a man named Smith. He set up his headquarters in the Ryan house, which is next north of the Perry Funeral Chapel. The barns in the rear housed the horses and coaches. Unless you were fortunate enough to own your own team and carriage the only way of going to and from Troy was on the Stage. It was an all day trip; leaving Averill Park about 7:30 in the morning one would arrive about 10:30 or 11:00 a.m. where the stage would stop at the Gifford House on Congress Street (where Bumstead's is now located). The return trip would start in approximately two hours, and would arrive back at Averill Park about 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. The stage would then continue on through the Alps to West Stephentown.

VILLAGES - HAMLETS - LAKES

Sand Lake Village (now Averill Park) is situated near the southern end of Sand Lake (now Crystal Lake) and contains a Baptist Church and Methodist Chapel, two hotels, several stores, several woolen mills, a cotton-warp mill, a paper-mill, and about 1200 inhabitants.

Sliter's Corners (now Sand Lake) is situated less than a mile east of the village of Sand Lake and contains a Presbyterian Church, a hotel, two stores, an undertaker's shop, a carriage shop, a blacksmith shop, a number of pleasant dwellings and a population of about 300. Sliter's Corners received its name from the Sliter family, pioneer settlers.

Glass House (now Glass Lake) so called because of the glass works which existed there for many years, is located a short distance southeast of Sliter's Corners, near Glass Lake. It contains a Methodist Church, a hotel and about 25 dwellings. Glass House was formerly known as Rensselaer Village.

Ulinesville (now West Sand Lake) was called that in honor of Barnhardt Uline, who built the first house there. It is situated in the northwest part of the town. It contains two Lutheran and two Methodist Churches, a hotel, several stores, a woolen stocking mill, a grist mill and about 400 inhabitants. Name changed to West Sand Lake circa 1835.

South Sand Lake (now Sliter's Corners) is a hamlet in the southwest corner of the town. It contains a store, a hotel, blacksmith shop, and a number of dwellings.

The Averill family was among our earliest settlers and were active members of the community. They were lawyers, real estate promoters, store and hotel keepers. The former village of Sand Lake was named Averill on May 3, 1880, and changed to Averill Park on March 27, 1882. I imagine the names of the other villages were all switched around about this same time or shortly thereafter.

The village of Taborton was known as East Sand Lake at first. Then came Georgetown, in honor of George Horton, who was born there on September 20, 1792. Finally it was named Taborton, meaning "promised land", the name we all know it by today.

The Town of Sand Lake has seven lakes within its boundaries. Crooked Lake which has the same name on an 1854 map, with an altitude of 828 feet. Glass Lake with the same altitude of 828 feet was known as Damme Lack in 1791, and Rouses Lake in 1839, and then Glass Lake in 1876. Crystal Lake was called Sand Lake on the maps in 1839 and 1854. The name was probably changed to Crystal at the same time the village of Sand Lake was changed to Averill Park in 1882. It has an altitude of 770 feet. Burden Lake was known as Martins Lake in 1839 and has an altitude of 628 feet. Reichards Lake was called "Drie Kante Lackie" in 1788. Drie-Kante means three cornered in Dutch-English Dictionaries. In 1854 it was called Reichards Pond, it has an altitude of 589 feet. The lake was named for Michael Rykert who held a large farm on the east shore in 1788.

Big Bowman Pond is shown with the same name on an 1854 map, it has an altitude of 1411 feet, and Little Bowman Pond has the same name also, with an altitude of 1413 feet. The two ponds were named for the Bowman family who settled there shortly after the Revolution.

INDUSTRY - STORES - SHOPS

In the early days the main source of power to run mills and factories was water. There were no engines and electric motors as we know today. The Wynantskill Improvement Association had completed dikes with gates to impound and control the water of Crooked, Glass, and Burden Lakes, in 1867. This made it possible to store large quantities of water and release it only when it was needed. The result was the enlarging of many mills and the building of new ones.

The industries of the town were many, the Wynantskill affording excellent water power. There were sawmills, woolen mills, hosiery mills, a tannery, cotton mill, grist mill, cloth dressing factory and a paper mill to name a few. A woolen mill was built in 1825 by Calvin Thompson and operated as such until 1860 when it burned. A new mill was erected in 1862 by James Akin, who ran a hosiery mill. Nicholas Kane acquired it in 1875 and manufactured hosiery.

The Rensselaer Glass Works (several sources say) were originally located on the shores of Crystal Lake, but the sand proved to be unsatisfactory and they moved to Glass Lake where they imported sand from Berkshire County in Massachusetts. The Glass Works at Glass Lake began about 1788 by Leonard de Neufville, Jan Hopfke and Ferdinand Walfahert, proprietors of the Dovesburgh Glass Works 10 miles west of Albany, N.Y. A factory was built on the northwest shore of Glass Lake and was known as the Rensselaer Glass Works.

It began making glass and continued under many different owners until 1853. The making of window glass was its commercial product.

Faith Mills of Averill Park, on the Burden Lake Road was constructed in March 1897 and know as the Faith Knitting Company. The name was later changed to Faith Mills, Inc. This plant burned in 1904. It was then rebuilt with a modern concrete building. Later other buildings were built for additional manufacturing capacity, storage and office space. The original owner was Peter McCarthy and then William D. Mahoney. The use of the mills was mens underwear and yarn spinning.

In January 1919, a beautiful new community clubhouse was built as a recreation building for the mill workers and the townspeople. William D. Mahoney, general manager of the Faith Knitting Works, and Superintendent R.M. Kennedy worked hard to make this community clubhouse a success. On the main floor there were 4 beautiful bowling alleys, pocket billard tables, a large dining room for banquets and a kitchen presided over by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stephens. The cafeteria provided a meal for 25¢ to the employees. Anyone else sitting in on the luncheon, not employed at the mill, had to pay 50¢. Irv Rosenberg managed the bowling alleys and there were bowling leagues for the men and duck pin leagues for the ladies. Thursday afternoon was set aside each week for the women and card parties, bowling and billard games. Large modern rest rooms and shower baths were also on the first floor. There was a snack bar too, where you could buy candy, snacks, soda and ice cream. The upstairs part of the building was a large hall with a stage at one end. School graduation exercises were held there, dances were held every other Saturday night, plays, and every Friday night all the latest movies were shown. Mrs. Irene Karl always played the piano for the movies. This was the entertainment center of the town for many years.

On March 1, 1945, Faith Mills Inc. and Wynantskill Manufacturing of Troy, N.Y., consolidated as Faith Mills Inc. In 1965 Faith Mills was sold to Elite Manufacturing Company.

A Shirt Shop was built in 1820 by Hemingway and Coleman. The old shirt shop was on the Burden Lake Road just below the second bridge on the left going toward Burden Lake.

The Paper Mill on Garner Road was built in 1845 by Staats Tompkins. This mill was located to the right of the 3rd bridge on the Burden Lake Road, on the stream below the falls. Andrew J. Smart acquired the paper mill in 1875 and employed about 17 persons. My grandfather used to drive team for the Paper Mill in the 1880's. It ceased operations in the 1890's.

The Akin & McLaren Mill site at West Sand Lake, known as McLarenville, was part of the original lease to Hendrick Sipperly from the Van Rensselaer Patroon prior to the Revolutionary War. It consisted of 328 acres and a sawmill privilege on the creek in this area. Joseph Henry Sipperly, grandson of Hendrick, established a cloth dressing mill here. In 1865, John H. Akin & John McLaren acquired the mill and privilege and began the manufacture of hosiery here. (This is the present Bonded Concrete Building).

The first grist mill was built on the Wynantskill at West Sand Lake in the year 1768, by Joshua Lockwood and William Carpenter. This was located just to the east of the third bridge at West Sand Lake on the left, going towards Albany. Farther down on the Wynantskill on the outskirts of West Sand Lake village (on Route 150 north) in the early 1800's a grist mill was run by David Clum on the creek behind his house. In the late 1860's Rozel S. Hastings acquired it and ran it until the 1880's. The old dam on the creek here furnished water power to run the grist mill. Sometime in ~~1910-1911~~ Clifford and Douglas Hastings built an electric power plant here, also run by water power. It furnished electricity for the town and was known as the Wynantskill-Hydro Electric Company.

Early in the 1800's lumbering became big business on Taborton Mountain. George Horton, Gideon Butts and Richard Knowlson formed one of the first lumber companies. Sawmills sprang up everywhere. First powered by water, later by stream, they made sizeable fortunes for their owners. One such saw mill was located at the south end of Little Bowman Pond and it was on this site that George Horton began his lumber business.

The building on the corners in Sand Lake which was always known as Nash's Store in the 1900's, is still standing but no longer run as a store by the Nash family. At the present time it is empty and for sale (1979). The original part of this store was built about 1830 when Franklin Averill ran a store there. Over the years it has had many owners. I have an old picture of this store in the Town Archives and sign over it says, "Lester & Horton". In 1912 Chester and Fred Nash acquired it and the Nash family ran it until about 1977. The Sand Lake Post Office was also located in this building for many years.

John T. Cotton had a wagon shop at Sand Lake, on the left on the Taborton Road. His son, James Cotton was also well known for his fine work in making inlaid tables and chairs from cigar box wood.

At Glass Lake, Daniel Gregory had a store near the Glass Works.

Mrs. E. Bullis had a millinery store at Sand Lake in 1870-71.

Solomon Taylor had the first store in Averill Park, and Stephen Gregory also had a store there.

Jacob Warger built a store in Averill Park circa 1908-1910, building now occupied by the Averill Park Market and Variety Store.

Dr. Isaac N. Wright built the first drugstore in Averill Park circa 1890-91. This was located where the Ben Gauch Store is now.

Gilbert Beebe ran a blacksmith shop on Johnny Cake Lane in Averill Park. Another blacksmith shop was located at Sand Lake where the Park Restaurant is now.

Bart Warren ran a blacksmith shop at West Sand Lake next door to W. J. Mielenz's carriage shop. These two businesses were located about 75 feet south of the West Sand Lake four corners on Route 150.

William J. Mielenz of West Sand Lake was a carriage and wagon maker in the 1870's. He was also a dealer in harness, blankets, sleighs and whips.

William Stevens kept a store at Sliters Corners in 1830.

Philip C. Mixter was a carpenter and millwright in West Sand Lake in the 1800's.

TRANSPORTATION

In the early days the people only had dirt roads cut through the forest. Some of these were toll roads and the people had to pay a toll at the tollgate house to use the road. One such tollgate house was at the junction of Miller Hill Road and Route 66, built about 1765. This house is still standing on the right near the very edge of the road. Another tollgate was at Crooked Lake near the dyke road.

The Troy and New England Railway Company began operation between Troy and Averill Park in 1895. The original plans of this company called for extension of the railway as far east as Pittsfield, Massachusetts. However the death of James K. Averill and the lack of financial backers caused it to be terminated at Averill Park. It ceased operations in 1925. The old Trolley Depot in Averill Park is the present Tremont Lumber building.

Stops along the way on the old trolley line included: Wynantskill, Snyders Lake, Brookside Park, West Sand Lake, Arlington Hotel, and Averill Park, the end of the line. The weekend crowds to Brookside Park and Crystal Lake, often caused the necessity of the use of "trailer cars", which was a second car hitched to the rear of the front car. In the summertime "open cars" were used. Taxi cabs were always on hand at the Averill Park Depot to meet the trolleys and take the passengers to whichever lake they wanted to go - Crystal, Crooked, Glass or Burden. Many of the people just walked up the hill to Crystal Lake and the grove. Some of the men who ran the taxis were: John Mosher, William Karl, Samuel McNary, Edwin Herrington, Edward Knapp and John Abel. After the increase of the automobile the number of passengers riding the trolleys was so small that the service was discontinued on March 31, 1925.

When the trolley line stopped operation in 1925, a bus service was started between Glass Lake and Troy, by: Ed Knapp, Sam McNary, Willis Larkin and Chet Wendell. This bus line was known as the "KLWM". Many of us rode these buses to Troy High School every day from 1927 to 1931, leaving home at 7:00 A.M. in the morning and not getting back home until 4:00 or sometimes 5:00 P.M. This bus service was later sold to the United Traction Company, which operated buses every hour between Glass Lake and Troy for a good many years.

SCHOOLS

One of the first schools in the Town was located about halfway between Averill Park and Sand Lake (about where the Heinz house is now). There were eleven school districts in 1876. There were also several academies and private schools in the Town.

The District #7 School House was built circa 1881. This is the present Sgt. Walter Adams American Legion building, and was a two-room school house.

The Sand Lake Collegiate Institute was established by William H. Scram in 1852 and ran until his death on November 1, 1875. This beautiful old building was located where the present Church of the Covenant is. The following information was taken from an old advertisement put out by the Institute:

"W.H. Scram's Collegiate Institute, Sand Lake. 10 miles east from Albany and Troy. This Institution, exclusively for boarders, and limited to 36 pupils, is situated in Rensselaer County, 10 miles east from Albany and Troy, in a region of country unsurpassed for health and picturesque scenery.

The buildings of the Institute are new, and in adaption and architectural elegance are entirely model and unique.

- Course of Study -

The design of the Principal in the course of instruction which he proposes to furnish, is to prepare young men and lads for college as well as for the counting-room and for general business. For this purpose, departments in the various branches of learning have been formed, which are taught by the Principal and by Teachers of approved ability.

-Terms-

The year is divided into two terms of twenty-two weeks each, commencing on the first Wednesday of November and May.

- Pupils may be admitted at any time.
- Pupils pay \$200. per annum, or \$100 per term.
- Music on the Piano \$36. per annum, or \$18. per term.
- For use of Gymnasium \$2. per term.
- Payment half term in advance, unless otherwise stipulated, and no deduction made for absence, unless in cases of protracted sickness.
- All articles of clothing must be distinctly marked. Pupils furnish their own towels and toilet soap.
- The use of Tobacco is strictly prohibited.
- Religious Exercises - The pupils attend family worship daily, and public worship and the Sabbath school every Sabbath.

- Remarks -

Understanding fully the importance of a more thorough course of elementary training than is commonly attained, the Principal has conducted his new Institute, from its commencement, now six years, with this object distinctly in view, and feels confident that by his exact arrangements, every scholar receives that particular attention which will secure the greatest amount of substantial progress.

The liberal and uninterrupted support which the Institute has enjoyed from its commencement, shows how faithfully its design has been executed by the Principal and how justly appreciated by its intelligent patrons.

Persons wishing more particular information, will be furnished with catalogues, by addressing the Principal.

Sandlake is accessible twice a day by stage, from Congress Street, Troy."

Copy of the above information which also has a lithograph picture of the Institute on it, was sent to me by Mrs. J.G. Woodburn, of Madison Wisconsin, who was related to Mrs. Scram. She also had a cousin, who taught in the Institute, Robert Donald.

Young men from all over used to attend the Scram Institute. They came from as far away as Cuba and South America. After Mr. Scram's death in 1875, the Institute was converted into a hotel by Horatio F. Averill.

NOTE: "Scram" is not spelled with an "H" (Schram) as I have seen it. It is spelled on the stationery just as I have it.

The Averill Park Female Seminary was located in the 1880's where the old Lakeview Hotel is. This was also a boarding school. I personally own a piece of paper giving rates, terms and courses, which is very interesting. The following information was taken from this paper:

"Averill Park Female Seminary" - Mrs. D.W. Clark, Principal. This Institution is delightfully situated within 500 feet of a beautiful sheet of clear spring water, (called Sand Lake) having a circumference of about two miles, and well supplied with fish of all kinds. It is also in the immediate vicinity of Glass Lake, Crooked Lake, Reichard's Lake, Vosburgh's Lake, Big and Little Bowman's Pond, Averill's Trout Pond, etc. It has an elevation of 700 feet above the waters of the Hudson, into which these lakes, or most of them after forming the Wynantskill, empty; and it also commands a fine view of the Catskill and Helderberg Mountains. There is an entire absence of malaria in this region of country which is unsurpassed for its healthfulness and picturesque scenery. Extensive park grounds are connected with the Seminary, containing beautiful shade trees, groves, walks, lawns, croquet grounds, and all conveniences for outdoor amusements.

Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and Catholic Churches are within walking distance of the Seminary.

Understanding full the importance of a more thorough course of elementary training than is commonly pursued, the Principal purposes to keep this object distinctly in view, whereby every scholar will receive that close attention which is calculated to secure the greatest amount of substantial progress.

The school year is divided into two terms. The first commencing the second Wednesday in September; the second commencing the first Monday in February and ending the second Wednesday in June of each year.

- Terms -

Board, Washing, Light, Fuel and Tuition in the Regular Course at \$200. per annum, or \$100 per term, payable one-half in advance and the remainder at the close of the term.

Each pupil should be provided with towels and napkins, thick boots and overshoes, umbrella and waterproof, and have each article of her dress marked with her full name.

No allowance will be made for absence except in cases of protracted illness.

- Music with use of Piano, \$20. per Term extra.
- Languages, 5. " " "
- Day Tuition, per Term, 10.
- Pew Rent at actual cost.

- Board of Visitors and Reference -

Rev. Dr. Clark, Albany, N.Y.
Prof. Edward Danforth, Albany, N.Y.
John E. Page, Esq., Albany, N.Y.
James Aken, Philmont, N.Y.
George F. Gregory, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rev. Mr. Ashley, Averill, N.Y.
Rev. Mr. Lee, Averill, N.Y.
Rev. F. Edward Hipelius, Averill, N.Y.
Pierce Kane, Esq., Averill, N.Y.
A.D. McConihe, Esq., Averill, N.Y.
Dr. E. G. Boyce, Averill, N.Y.

The Brookside Insitute was started in 1860 by Harvey Boone, who was a son-in-law of Albert H. Fox, on whose land the school was built. This building is still standing and is a private dwelling.

In 1889, Miss Fannie Howard conducted a Private Day School in Averill Park. (This was located in a building in back of Hal Shoemaker's home.)

There were several other well conducted private schools in the Town.

A Sand Lake map of 1876 shows that there were 11 common school districts within the Town.

The West Sand Lake School District No. 4 located on the hill, next to the old Salem Evangelical Church, is still standing on its original site, and has been converted into an apartment house. This building was erected in the 1800's.

The Glass Lake School District No. 8 is still standing and is one of our old one-room school houses, dating back to the 1830-40 period. It was converted into a private home many years ago and today is the residence of Mrs. Terry Rutherford.

While we are on the subject of schools, the following article was taken from "The New York State Education Magazine" of March 1962.

"Mrs. Charles R. Miller, the former Ida May Ferguson, is now in her 96th year. She began teaching in 1883 on a temporary certificate before her 16th birthday. She walked four miles each way to teach in her school. After training at Albany Normal School and her marriage in 1891, she and Mr. Miller taught as a team in the West Sand Lake Village School for 18 years, including

first year high school work in their teaching. The school had one large room where all the pupils sat and a smaller room where they went to recite. Husband and wife divided the work, primary and advanced, between them. Mrs. Miller was the first teacher in her district to earn and receive a first grade uniform certificate in 1888. In 1899 she became one of the first to receive her permanent certificate."

Another interesting note on our schools is the following, related to me by Mrs. Ida Wendell Butler: "Mary Kelly was the teacher here when I graduated from Averill Park District No. 7. She came out here when she was 17 years old and she taught in the small room from the first grade up to the sixth grade. She transformed the school into something entirely different than it had ever been before, even though we had only two rooms, two water pails, two dippers and two stoves. When it came time for graduation she suggested that they have a regular graduation. That was the first time they ever had a graduation for those who graduated from the eighth grade. Very few of the pupils ever went on to school beyond the eighth grade, so it was a real thrill for them to get a diploma and to feel that they had really accomplished something in their school life. The graduation exercises were held in the big ballroom of the old Gabler Hotel (Lakeview Hotel, where the bowling alley is) and it was crowded. I graduated from eighth grade there in 1912."

The Averill Park Central School District's first building opened in September 1929, with Elmer E. Stahlman, as principal, and housed all the elementary grades as well as the high school.

The idea of forming a Central School District began in 1928, and on August 21, residents of Sand Lake Poestenkill districts met at the Sand Lake Presbyterian Church to discuss the matter. Four small districts, the two-room school at Averill Park and three other one-room schools combined to form the centralization.

Pioneers in this movement for centralization were: Dr. Elmer E. Reichard, William D. Mahoney, J. Eugene Woodruff, James B. Wynne, and Fred Deyss. These men were also our first Board of Education.

I found an old newspaper clipping of 1957 telling about our school district when they were going to breakground for the new high school. In this clipping, Mr. Stahlman, our Supervising Principal, had this to say about our district, quote: "We're a little bit old fashioned, but that's the way we want it. All the high school girls properly wear skirts. Only at examination time may they wear dungarees or slacks. The boys are also dressed nicely in good slacks and shirts or sweaters. The reason for wearing skirts on regular school days and dungarees at examination time is something only the girls themselves know. Apparently it has something to do with the fact that they feel more relaxed in the dungarees or slacks, and testing time is a time when at least one wants to be relaxed." In any event that's what the girls asked to do and the principal went along with the idea.

Today in 1979, we have in our school district, the Averill Park High School, Sand Lake School, Miller Hill School, West Sand Lake School, Algonquin School and the Poestenkill School. The school district furnishes employment for many people of the Town.

CHURCHES

The first church in the Town was a Lutheran Church built of logs, outside the village. This was taken down in 1816 and moved to West Sand Lake village where it was known as the Zion Lutheran Church of West Sand Lake. In 1839 a split occurred in the congregation and some members withdrew and built the 2nd. Lutheran Church (now demolished, stood about where the Lake Pharmacy does today). At this time the name was changed to First Lutheran Church of West Sand Lake. In 1926 the two churches became one again and the present name of Trinity Lutheran Church was adopted. The parsonage next door on the north side was built circa 1820-30. After the merger of the two churches again in 1926, services were held in the original church and the brick church that belonged to the Second Lutheran was used for civic events. Then in 1944 lightning struck the steeple of the Trinity Church and it burned to the ground. The congregation then used the old brick church. Then in the winter of 1953 under the weight of ice and snow, one of the roofing trusses cracked and the roof was in severe danger of caving in. Emergency repairs were made, but the congregation voted to build a new church on the site of the old wooden structure that burned in 1944. This was done in 1954 and the Trinity Lutheran Church of West Sand Lake celebrated their 200th Anniversary on November 13 and 14, 1976.

The Salem Evangelical Church was organized in 1854 and the first building was erected soon after. For many years it served both as a church and parsonage. The present church was erected in 1865, and is today a private dwelling owned by the Gavryck's. Electricity was installed in the church in 1911. During the years 1929-30, the interior of the church was redecorated. An addition was built on the Church which cost \$3500. The addition is used for various activities of the church. The Salem Evangelical Church celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 1945. In 1968 the Salem Evangelical Church members united with the Methodist Church of West Sand Lake and they built a new church on Shaver Road, known as the Salem United Methodist Church, in 1971.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at West Sand Lake was erected sometime after 1836, on South Street where the building still stands, but now houses the First Bible Baptist Church. In May of 1968, the Methodists united with the Salem Evangelical Church and in the spring of 1971 a new church on Shaver Road was dedicated and is known as the Salem United Methodist Church.

The Sand Lake Baptist Church is the oldest public building in the Town of Sand Lake. It was built in 1805 as a Meeting House for the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians. The Methodists were the first to sell their rights in the Meeting House, and they built the wooden church at Glass Lake about 1833. Then the Presbyterians sold their rights in the Meeting House to the Baptists and erected their church, The First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake in 1835, at Sand Lake. The original "Meeting House" (the present church building) was built with a gallery extending around three sides of the church. The seats were arranged after the plan of the old time "square pews", below and in the gallery. The pulpit was of hexagonal form, with a sounding board over the speaker, and it had a steeple shaped top. The pulpit stood upon a post eight feet high, making the speaker as high as the present gallery. There was no stove or chimney put in the "Meeting House" until 1825. In 1840 the church was improved, and in 1844 sheds were erected at the rear of the building for the horses and wagons of the people attending church. During the year 1865 the church was repaired

and improved. In the year 1911 the stained glass windows were installed, and a new gasoline lighting system was put in. On December 17, 1928, a new pipe organ was dedicated. During the year 1933 the interior of the church was again redecorated. The Sand Lake Baptist Church celebrated their 125th Anniversary on December 28, 29, and 30, 1956. The new attached Education Building was dedicated on June 29, 1958. The parsonage to the west of the church was built circa 1850.

The original wooden church at Glass Lake known as the Glass Lake Methodist Church was built around 1833. This building burned in January 1913 and the present stone building was dedicated in November 1914. In 1959 when the Averill Park Methodist Church burned it housed that congregation while the new church was being built. Today this building is known as the Perry Funeral Chapel.

The First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake, N.Y. was erected in the year 1834-35. It was dedicated on October 28, 1835. It was formally organized on December 29, 1808 as the First Presbyterian Church of Greenbush. When the society was organized in 1808, it united with the Methodists and Baptists in the use of what was then called the Union Meeting House, now the Sand Lake Baptist Church. Each denomination had separate organizations and pastors, but worshiped in the same building- an arrangement which was continued for nearly thirty years. The history of the First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake may be divided into three periods- the first, from the date of organization in 1808 to 1826, when it was formally reorganized- the second, from then to the time of the erection of the present church edifice in 1834-35- and the third period covers the remaining interval to the year 1966. The First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake, N.Y. celebrated its 150th Anniversary on November 15, 1958. 1808-1958. In 1967 the First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake, united with the Averill Park Methodist Church and became known as, The Church of the Covenant, at Averill Park, N.Y.

After the merger the Town of Sand Lake purchased the former Presbyterian Church and remodeled the interior for offices and use as a Town Hall. On Sunday, June 25, 1972, the new Town Hall was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony and speeches by Town Officials. The Presbyterian Manse was torn down in 1974 and the old barn and sheds were also torn down, and a parking lot was made on this lot for the Town Hall.

The Olive Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in Averill Park in 1874 on the Burden Lake Road. The new church was dedicated on December 31, 1874. One of the prized possessions of the new congregation was the beautifully toned church bell, weighing 830 lbs., purchased from the old Meneely Foundry. Around 1901 a large social room was added. In 1926, the church was renamed the Averill Park Methodist Church. On Sunday, March 15, 1936, fire raged through the white frame church. It was rebuilt and then again on April 7, 1937 fire again struck the church. The church was again rebuilt, and consecrated on April 3, 1938. Then once again on November 5, 1959 the Methodist Church was on fire. This time the congregation decided to build a new church. This old church stood between Odd Fellows Hall and the Kane-O'Donnell residence on the Burden Lake Road.

The new round Averill Park Methodist Church which stands on the site of the former Scrans Collegiate Institute and the old Averill Park Hotel, was dedicated on May 28, 1961. In 1967 after the merger of the Presbyterians and Methodist it was renamed, "The Church of the Covenant."

St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church of Averill Park was first housed in a wooden church dedicated in 1870. The present brick church was erected in 1902, and serves as the main church. The old wooden church which was used as a church hall, was sold and taken down in 1977 and moved. In 1959, the old rectory which stood next to the present church site, on the north side, was demolished and a new rectory was purchased on Crystal Lake Road. The site of the old rectory is now a parking lot for the church congregation.

The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at Taborton was built about 1860. The following interesting information with respect to Lot No. 151, Middletown on which Lot this Church is located, was found by Mr. Clark Cipperly, Attorney and Counselor at Law, in the Van Rensselaer Survey Book and Ledger in the New York State Library at Albany and the Rensselaer County Clerk's office at Troy, N.Y.

May 20, 1800 - Timothy Bowerman lives on this Lot - has about 20 acres cleared.

May 21, 1827 - Leased for two years to Daniel Bowman for rental of two loads of beach or maple wood.

December 3, 1844 - William P. Van Rensselaer and wife sold Lots No. 151 and 153 to Richard J. Knowlson, Gideon Butts, and George Horton for \$900.00.

August 4, 1852 - Richard J. Knowlson, and Gideon Butts conveyed to George Horton 2/3 interest in Lots Nos. 151, 152, 161, and 142- excepting the Meeting House and School House Lots conveyed March 26, 1852. (According to information this deed was never recorded and was lost.)

December 30, 1865 - Property sold by Mr. and Mrs. George Horton for the sum of \$150.00 to Henry Werger, John Weger, and Jacob Shipe, Trustees of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Sand Lake with the stipulation the "premises above conveyed are to be used and occupied for Evangelical Protestant Meeting House and for no other purpose whatever."

December 20, 1866 - Mr. and Mrs. George Horton sold to Frederick Marmerro, Peter Hoffman, and Carl Hoffman, Trustees of the German Evangelical Protestant Church Cemetery Association, one acre of land. "The above described land is conveyed, to be expressly for a cemetery or burial ground and for no other purpose, and it is understood expressly that the Trustees of said grounds are to make, maintain and keep it well fenced at all times." The deed for this property was delivered to Mr. Coonrad Brown, January 6, 1880.

In January of 1852, the Rev. G. Bochert, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghent, Columbia County, visited this area for the purpose of inviting the German speaking natives to worship in the small log Meeting House standing on the wooded hillside between two ponds, the Big and Little Bowman Ponds, named after David Bowman, former lessee of this property. It was decided to have Rev. Bochert conduct services in the meeting house every two weeks.

The above information was taken from the booklet published on their "Centennial Anniversary - 1852 - 1952.

DOCTORS

The medical profession always plays an important role in the life and growth of a community. Some of the old "horse and buggy" doctors, who worked under difficult conditions to keep the community alive and well were:

Dr. Uriah M. Gregory, one of the first in town, came to Sand Lake in the 1790's.

Dr. Charles Gregory, son of Dr. Uriah M. Gregory practiced in the early 1800's.

In the 1830's, Dr. Thomas Browning was practicing in Sand Lake.

In 1845, Dr. Eber Carmichael took over Dr. Browning's practice.

Dr. Arlington Boyce practiced in West Sand Lake during the 1860's.

Dr. Elias Boyce, his brother, also practiced in West Sand Lake during that time and later in the 1870's moved to Averill Park.

Dr. William H. Snyder and Dr. Philander Thomas, were two other physicians in West Sand Lake.

Dr. Isaac N. Wright and Dr. Elmer E. Reichard were practicing in Averill Park. Dr. Elmer E. Reichard set up practice around 1900 and was a very popular doctor until his retirement.

Dr. Frank Davenport and Dr. Walter Meeler were the two doctors in town in the 1940's.

There were many other doctors who served this town and are too numerous to mention. In the old days the doctors used to pull teeth as well as dispense medicine and care for the sick.

Today we have Dr. John Reid, Dr. Stephen Goewey and Dr. Robert Moore. We also have two dentists in town, Dr. John Dunn and Dr. Robert Hill II.

HOTELS

Our town has had many taverns and hotels down through the ages. Most of the beautiful old hotels have been destroyed to make way for a few more gas stations. Today there are but two of the old hotels that I know of that are running, they are: the Glass Lake Inn, which is presently run by Clayton and Eleanor Teal and their daughter Sharon and son-in-law Len Cremiso; and the Crooked Lake Hotel which is run by Al Coon. Following are some notes on a few of the old hotels that have been destroyed:

Joseph Gabler ran the Gabler Hotel in Averill Park (Lakeview Hotel) and it was very famous. Joseph Gabler was Mrs. Ida Butler's Grandfather, and she had the following memories of that hotel. "Many wealthy people from Troy and vicinity came and stayed at the hotel all summer. They came in their carriages with their horses and coachmen and there were big barns in back of the hotel, and stables for the horses. People from all over would come out on a Sunday afternoon and have dinner. My grandfather used to serve - roast beef, or roast lamb, with a side order of chicken and all kinds of home cooked vegetables. He served all home cooked pastries and breads and the dinner was \$1.50. They had a black chef that did most of the cooking in a building out in back of the hotel. On the bar my grandfather would always serve a free lunch for the poorer people of the town. He served a great big mug of beer for 5¢ and the free lunch would be: chowder, hockeys and sauerkraut, cold cuts and hard boiled eggs. People could have all they wanted to eat free. Down by the lake was a beautiful pavillion and they used to have parties and dances

down there. They had boats down there to rent too. The big ballroom, where the bowling alley is now was really the entertainment center of the town. The firemen would hold their fairs there and different organizations in the town would also hold their affairs there. They used to have hay rides and sleigh rides that would come out from the city and they would have dances and banquet in this big community hall."

The Old Averill Park Hotel, when I knew it was called "Hilke's Averill Park Hotel" or sometimes the "Park House Hotel". From about 1900 to 1920 or 1921, this beautiful old hotel was run by a family by the name of Hilke. This old hotel was three stories high, because the lower floor was built into the hillside. Only two stories showed from the front but the back view plainly showed the three stories. The bar was on the lower floor in the back of the hotel. It was a large hotel with beautiful well kept grounds and lots of shade trees and lawn around it. It had a big porch with a roof over part of it, on the side there was no roof over the porch, it was like what we would call today a patio, with tables and chairs out there. Many people came out on the trolleys to spend the weekend at the hotel or spend the summer. I remember the night it burned very vividly, as my parents and I were living in the house right across from it on Orient Avenue, where my Dad, Norman H. Vickery, had a meat market. It was such a roaring fire that the paint on the front of our house was all blistered, and they had us moving our possessions and furniture out the back door, so if it did catch on fire. We carried a lot of things over to an aunt of my mother's who lived on the corner of Tin Can Alley. But thank God our house did not catch on fire due to the valiant efforts of the fire company. Fire Companies from Troy and surrounding areas were there - it was a general alarm fire.

The beautiful big old hotel that stood on the corner where the present day Gulf Station in Averill Park is, had many different proprietors over the years. In one of the old pictures that I have the sign on the hotel calls it the, "Sand Lake House", in another taken in the 1900's, it was called "Traveler's Rest", and was run by G. A. Winters. This was also a beautiful big hotel and had a porch all across the front and side, and there was a porch on the second floor also. In the old pictures you can notice the nice triangle of green grass out in front of the hotel by the corner of the road as you turned on to Johnny Cake Lane and Eastern Union Turnpike. In the green is a round stone flower bed. We also had sidewalks. In fact, at one time you could walk all the way from Averill Park Village to Glass Lake Village on the sidewalk! I remember the fire that destroyed this old hotel on March 2, 1939. At that time we were living with my grandmother Wilkinson on Johnny Cake Lane. This was also a general alarm fire and fire companies from Troy were out to hel at that time also.

Clum's Hotel at Averill Park was built in the 1870's-80's. It stood on Orient Avenue across from the Troy and New England Railway Station. This building is still standing today, and I believe it is an apartment house now. For many years it was a home for Bart and Nora Warren and their family.

The Crist Crape Hotel at Sand Lake corners was very famous for the meals served there. In the late 1830's Clement Sliter remodeled the old John Stephens Store into a Tavern, then it was acquired in the 1880's by Crist Crape and he renamed it "Crape's Hotel". Mr. Crape and his wife ran the hotel for more than 50 years and other members of the family for a time after that. It was famous for home cooked food, homemade jellies and jams. About 1950, the Crape family sold the old hotel

and it became a private residence. This beautiful big old hotel stood on the corner between the Taborton Road and Routes 43 and 66, where yet another gas station is located now. There was also a circle of green grass and stately old elms in front of this hotel, which was surrounded by a white fence. A long porch extended across the front of the hotel, and a porch across the front on the second floor also. I have been told that the upstairs ballroom had a spring floor, and many of the older residents remembered dancing there. This old hotel was torn down in 1957.

The Glass Lake Hotel was built sometime between 1833 and 1853, by Albert and Samuel Fox, who ran the Glass Works during this period. They erected on this site a large frame building called, "Mechanics Hall", to accomodate those of their workmen who had no permanent homes. After the Glass Works burned down in 1853, it was converted into a hotel by Joseph H. Gabler. Mr. Gabler kept this hotel for a number of years, then he was succeeded by William Haynor who kept it for three years. Sometime in the 1880's it was run by James Clark. The Troy-Stephentown Stage Coach Line ran between the Gifford House on Congress Street in Troy, N.Y. to Stephentown, N.Y., and used to stop at the Glass Lake Hotel. Steve Keeler ran this hotel in the early 1900's also. The Glass Lake Hotel was completely rebuilt in 1933 by John H. Niebuhr, who was its proprietor until 1944. Since then it has had numerous owners. At the present time, 1979, it is a very popular eating place, called the "Glass Lake Inn", and run by Clayton and Eleanor R. Teal.

The Crooked Lake Hotel was the site of an early tavern in 1813, run by Phillip Upham. It burned sometime in the 1850's. James McKay Mosher acquired it in 1860 and built the present Crooked Lake Hotel. He was the proprietor for a great many years, until he sold it in 1881 to the Brown family. Then it was known as "Brown's Hotel". This was always a very popular spot and still is. Teddy Roosevelt and his family spent a great deal of time there when he was Governor. The walls of the dining room are decorated with moose, elk and other animal heads, which Mr. Roosevelt shot on his expeditions. In 1935 Al W. Coon, became proprietor along with his wife, the late Theresa Maloney Coon. In 1947 the hotel was completely remodeled. A ballroom, seating 600 was built, followed by a dining room that can accomodate 250. The dance floor was enlarged with two new wings, each 20 feet by 140 feet long. During the early 40's, big name bands, like Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Stan Kenton and Glen Miller played at the hotel. (I can remember dancing to the music of these bands.) NBC recorded the performances and the music was heard all over. They used to say, "This music is coming to you from the Crooked Lake Hotel, on the shores of beautiful Crooked Lake, in Averill Park, N.Y." In 1962 an indoor heated swimming pool was added. Mr. Coon over the years has also replaced the small hotel porch with a slate floor and built eight massive stone pillars in place of the wooden poles that supported the upper stories. This hotel in 1979 is still run by Al Coon and is a very popular place.

On the present site of the Gulf Station in West Sand Lake at the four corners, there stood for at least 100 years, a hotel, known at various times as Sliter's Inn, Seymour Hotel and Brewster House. The original hotel was built about 1830-35 by Jacob Hageman and run by him until the 1840's, when W. Sliter acquired it. In the late 1860's S.D. Seymour ran it until sometime in the 1880-90's, when Fred Brewster acquired it. After the trolleys stopped running to Averill Park and we had the KLWM Bus Line, the buses were housed in the livery or garage end of the old hotel.

People used to wait for the buses on the porch of the old hotel, as this was one of the bus stops.

Another hotel at West Sand Lake was the old hotel which was right on the trolley line, and was known as the Elk Horn Hotel, the Arlington Hotel, and more popularly, "Journey's End". As Journey's End it was a very popular eating place known for miles around. It was run by Eve Ferguson until about 1974. Today it is closed.

There were other old hotels at Burden Lake also. To name a few there were: the Maple Grove Hotel, Calkins Lake House and Fogarty's Hotel.

DOWN WITH RENT

Between 1629 and 1649 major purchases were made with the Indians by the Van Rensselaer family, for lands that today comprise Albany and Rensselaer Counties and half of Columbia County. Robert Livingston set up a similar feudal land system in southern Columbia County, and similar systems were established throughout eastern New York State by other families, which had as their economic base, the "Tenant farmer".

The last of the "patroons", Stephen Van Rensselaer, died on January 26, 1839. He had lived a life of great philanthropy, giving lands, money and favors to many causes. Many churches in the area were Van Rensselaer land grants. Land for the old "Union Meeting House", which is today the Sand Lake Baptist Church was a Van Rensselaer land grant.

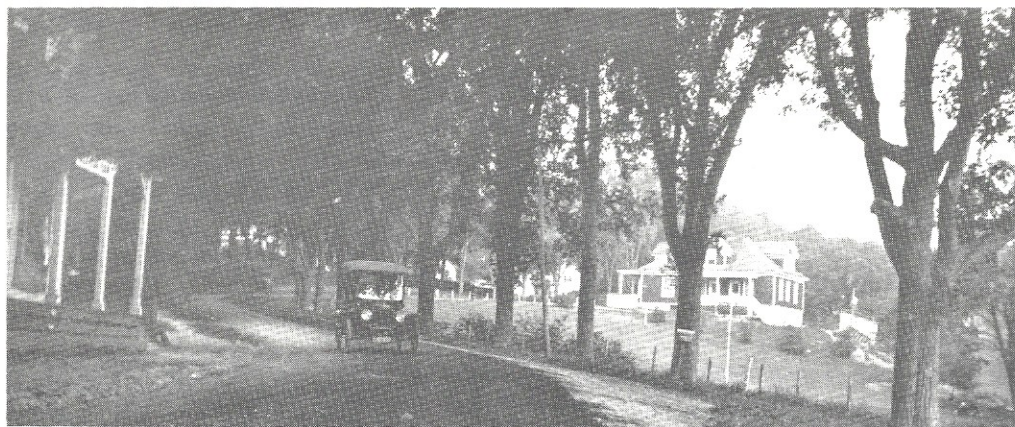
When this feudal system died, a new structure emerged. In much debt, Van Rensselaer's heir, Stephen Van Rensselaer Jr., was charged with the responsibility of settling the estate debts with the uncollected rents from the patroon's tenants.

This caused an uproar and much opposition from local farmers, especially in the Helderberg region. Violent outbreaks resulted, known as the "Helderberg War". "Anti-Renters", as they were called, simply refused to make payment on leases, for lands they felt were rightfully theirs.

In Rensselaer County, two deputy sheriffs were tarred and feathered and a man was shot. Frequently one would see burning tar barrels on the roadside, a sign of warning against the law-enforcers.

The revolt on the east side of the Hudson was led by Dr. Smith A. Boughton, a Calico Indian, formerly of Alps. Dr. Boughton was called, "Big Thunder". The Hoags Corners Hotel was a frequent rallying spot for "anit-renters".

The farmers finally petitioned for a land laws revision in the State and in 1846 a constitutional convention was held. At this legislative gathering, the farmers saw feudalism eliminated for good by a provision in the revised constitution forbidding the leasing of farm land for longer than 12 years. This meant that tenant farming was ended, but the "back rents" were still due. Satisfied to some extent, yet disgruntled with these payments over their heads, the farmers continued rebellion.



When Deputy Sheriff, Willard Griggs, set out to issue a warrant against William Whitbeck of Defreestville, a very prominent farmer, Griggs found himself in a hot bed of anti-rentism. As a result Griggs was pulled from his wagon, shot and left by the roadside to die, and that he did the next day. They buried him in Sand Lake Cemetery, where his tombstone is still standing, along with the records, "Shot in the fearless discharge of his duty as deputy sheriff in executing process and died August 2, 1869, aged 58 years."

In the Town of Sand Lake and surrounding areas during the years 1865 and 1866 there was an "Anti-renters Association". At a meeting of the committee of the Anti renters of Rensselaer County held at the Seymour Hotel on the 8th day of November 1865, Josph Gregory was chosen chairman and Hiel Adams was chosen secretary. Many of the old familiar names of the town are in the "Minute Book" of this Association. To name just a few: Herman Allendorph, Philip Shaver, Tunis Vanderzee, Phillip S. Haner, Wm. H. Fergisin, John P. Uline, Eli Vickery, Nicholas Cipperly, John Wheeler, John Hogle and Burton A. Thomas.

CEMETERIES

Our town has several cemeteries, some of which are quite old. The Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery is located in back of the Church on Route 150, in West Sand Lake.

The Elmwood Cemetery in West Sand Lake is located on Route 150 south of the village at the corner of Shaver Road.

St. Henry's Cemetery in Averill Park is located next to Lake Avenue and lies between Routes 43 and 66.

Sand Lake Union Cemetery is located at Sand Lake to the west of Routes 43 and 66, down Cemetery Lane.

The Taborton Cemetery is located at Taborton on the hill in back of the Church.

The Holcomb Road Cemetery is located on the corner of Holcomb Road and First Dyke Road.

The Coon-Huntley Cemetery is located south of Crooked Lake off the Methodist Farm Road on property owned by the Mosher family.

The Bauer Cemetery is located in the southeast corner of the town on Bauer Road on the T. Nardi farm.

The Miller-Snook Cemetery is located on the Sand Lake - North Greenbush line on the farm of R. Phillips.

LIBRARY

At one time our town had something that we do not have today. From an old newspaper clipping I quote the following: "On the second Tuesday in April 1808, \$100.00 having been subscribed for the establishment of a library, the members of the Sand Lake Library Society assembled at the house of Thomas Thompson, and after making William Van Tress chairman of the meeting, elected Uriah M. Gregory, Joel Bristol, Stephen Gregory, Aretus Lyman and Nathan R. Crandall trustees of the association." This was a circulating library and was organized eight years after the Troy Library was established. If only our town had kept some of the things that were established by our ancestors.

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION 1975-1976

With the conception of your Bicentennial Commission in November 1974, Mrs. Bonnie Romer and Roger Young were appointed as Co-Chairmen, and the plans were started. In November of 1975, Mrs. Madolyn Carpenter was appointed to replace Mrs. Romer, who resigned. Your Commission was made up of organizations and individuals who wanted to participate. It was only with the dedication of these organizations and individuals that this Commission achieved such success.

Your Bicentennial Commission worked for two years with several goals in mind. First, our goal was to touch as many lives in our town as humanly possible- second, was to reach people of all ages, from the very young to those who were young at heart- and third, was to bring back a touch of history which would give everyone a renewed sense of pride regarding the birth of our country - to make people aware of what made our country great!

Over the period of two years, we presented 17 programs to the Community of varied interests and subjects. They ranged from a rededication of the Sand Lake Baptist Church to an all inclusive Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial Day, which was held June 12, 1976.

One of our projects was the start of a 200 Club, better known as the "Liberty Tree". When the "Liberty Tree" was created, we dreamed of a spinoff organization to follow up some of the work of the Commission. On January 19, 1977 this dream was realized when a new group was officially formed and was called the "200 Club".

BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

Major General John G. Baker, Representative of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission presented the Town's Bicentennial Flag to Supervisor Sidney S. Gallant on September 13, 1975, when the State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission recognized the Town of Sand Lake as an official Bicentennial Community.

The ceremonies were held in the Town Hall at 1:30 p.m. Invited guests included: Assemblyman Neil Kelleher; County Executive William Murphy; County Legislators William Walsh, Thomas Colloton and Stephen Markell, and Congressman Edward W. Pattison of the 29th Congressional District.

The official Bicentennial Flag and a scroll designating Sand Lake a Bicentennial Community were presented to our Town Supervisor, Sidney S. Gallant. The flag will be flown at the Town Hall. A painting of Glass House Lake, which was originally painted by Joseph Hidley of Poestenkill, in 1850-55, was recreated by Ruth C. Udvary and Sanford G. Young and was unveiled at this program. The Liberty Tree was also dedicated on this day.

On June 12, 1976, the Sand Lake Bicentennial Day was held at the Averill Park High School, on the grounds outside and also inside as well. The day started with a parade from Sand Lake to the high school grounds. Many people from all over came and demonstrated their crafts. This was a big day and very well attended.

The town also had a Bicentennial Plate project and a Bicentennial Quilt project. Our Bicentennial Quilt is hanging in our Town Hall for everyone to enjoy. The sketches made by the artists of our town are also framed and hanging in the Town Hall. Some of these sketches were used on our Bicentennial Plate.

- Declaration of Independence -

On July 4, 1976, we had a 200th Anniversary Celebration of "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence" at the Averill Park High School. This was a very beautiful and meaningful program with all 56 signers of the Declaration portrayed by the men of our town. They were all dressed in costumes of the period and signed the Declaration in order, as Robert Couture who portrayed the part of Charles Thompson, read "Reminiscences of Charles Thompson Secretary, First Continental Congress".

The auditorium was packed. William Lance was Master of Ceremonies and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. A Community Chorus directed by David Lance, sang, "America the Beautiful".

The women of the town made the costumes worn by the signers. The Declaration of Independence was written on parchment by Nancy Tobler.

There was an exhibit held in March 1975 at the Salem United Methodist Church in West Sand Lake, called "That's The Way It Was".

These are only a few of the notable projects that were held in our town during the Bicentennial.

OLD HOMES

In 1979 we still have a few of the older homes in our town, that have not been destroyed, following are some of them.

The Eugene Rogers house on Oak Hill Road was built in the 1830's by William B. Horton.

The Albert R. Fox house in Sand Lake was built about 1840-45.

The Allen house in Sand Lake was built in 1873 by Alonzo Ainsworth.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Beck in Sand Lake was built in 1826.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Guy in Sand Lake was built in the 1830's - 40's.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. William Retallick in Sand Lake was built in the 1830's by Silas Sliter.

The Kenneth Martin home on Schuman Road was built in the 1830's by the Horton family.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kelley on Schuman Road was the former Knowlson home, built about 1832 by Richard John Knowlson.

The Don Edmans home on Schuman Road was built in 1790 and was the home of Major Thomas Frothingham.

The Gregory House was built about 1830. Today it is the home of the Robert Jewell's and also the "Gregory House" Restaurant.

The Wilkinson house on Johnny Cake Lane was built about 1820-30 by A.M. Dutcher. Today it is the home of the Fulles.

The Kehn house on Johnny Cake Lane was built about 1855 and is today the home of the Michael Stahlman family.

The Kinney house on Johnny Cake Lane was built in the 1840's. In the 1870's John Kinney acquired it and later it was owned by his son Daniel, and today the Robert Couture family reside there.

The Kane-O'Donnell residence on the Burden Lake Road was built in the late 1850's by James Akin.

The Harry O'Donnell Store and the Nelson Patchin house, were built in the early 1800's, joined together to form the earliest hotel and tavern in Averill Park. By the 1870's it was cut in half and the Patchin house was turned around, and the two places appeared the same as today.

The Gabler-Rider house was the home of James K. Averill and built by him in the 1870-80's.

The Pedersen house on Miller Hill Road, was built in the 1830's.

The Thomas house on Gettle Road was built in the 1800's.

A.B. Knowlson originally built the Mahoney house on the Burden Lake Road, circa 1870. It was remodeled by W.D. Mahoney in the early 1900's.

The Olmstead house was built circa 1780 by D'Arcy Boulton, on land acquired from Stephen Van Rensselaer.

The Peter Shoemaker house was built circa 1850 by Peter Shoemaker.

A. Hogle built the Hogle house on the 1st Dyke Road in 1801, and the Hogle family have always lived in the house.

The Backer house on Thais Road was built in 1838 by J. Westfall & Son.

The Miller home on Thais Road was built in 1838 by J. Miller, and it has never been out of the Miller Family.

Bon Acre Store was originally built as a private home in 1838.

The Scott Burgoyne's home in Averill Park was built by John Wesley Parks in the 1840's.

The Rowley home in West Sand Lake was built in the 1830's by B. Uline and owned by the Uline family until sometime after 1911.

The Creech house in West Sand Lake was built between 1854 and 1861.

The Eugene Rescott home in West Sand Lake was built in 1847 by Henry Willard.

The Miller-Thomas house was built sometime in the 1830's and is located in West Sand Lake.

The Senter home in West Sand Lake was built sometime in the late 1770's, on part of the Youngmans farm.

The Van Pragg home in West Sand Lake was built in 1820. In the early 1900's it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayner.

The Scovill house in West Sand Lake was the place where Dr. Philander H. Thomas set up his practice in the early 1800's.

There are a number of other old homes in our town which have not been mentioned. The ones listed above are just a few from each village, to give you an idea of all the beautiful old homes that are still standing, and have been restored.

TOWN HALL

Our Town Hall in the former Presbyterian Church Building at Sand Lake was dedicated on June 18, 1972. An open house and tours of the building were held at 2 p.m. The late Charles Hack was the contractor who did the remodeling inside to provide offices and still retain the characteristics of the century old building. Supervisor Gallant, other town officials and volunteers all spent many of their free hours helping to make our Town Hall beautiful inside and out. A new addition with four more offices and a large walk-in vault were built, on the back of the Town Hall in 1977, and were ready for occupancy in January 1978. Your Town Historian was assigned one of these offices.

SAND LAKE AMBULANCE

The Sand Lake Ambulance squad was first organized about 1959. The first call they received was on Memorial Day 1959. The ambulance is manned by dedicated volunteers of the town, who donate their services for this worthy cause. This volunteer group is on call 24 hours a day with two fully equipped ambulances, trained personnel and an emergency phone system. The service is provided free to the community, and is supported by donations, and some money from the Town Board.

AVERILL PARK FIRE COMPANY

On August 11, 1900, a meeting was held at Tillson's Hall and the present Averill Park and Sand Lake Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 was organized with 31 charter members.

A lot was purchased from Jacob H. Warger as a site for an engine house. The residents of the village gave their hearty support and by May 1901 the building was completed far enough for occupancy. The building was located where Dave's Shopping Center is today. Before the engine house was built the organization purchased a hand engine and hose cart known as "Nickwackett". Then on February 9, 1904 a chemical engine was purchased. In 1909 five hundred feet of new hose was purchased. The 31 charter members were:

Harry N. Patchin
Arthur Larkin

Andrew Shoemaker
Edmond E. Hack

Arthur Hack
Peter Shoemaker

George Brownhardt
 Harry Crape
 Harry Tillson
 John E. Martin
 Fred A. Shoemaker
 Norman Vickery
 Alfred Carmon
 Albert Knapp
 Fred Kelsey

Robert Snyder
 Stephen Keeler
 Charles A. Crape
 Jacob Warger
 Sylvester Vickery
 E.E. Reichard, M.D.
 Thomas F. Kelsey
 Elmer Brownhardt

Orrin French
 Howard Lester
 William Warger
 D.A. Hogeboom
 Henry Lockwood
 Charles A. Smith
 William H. Gardner
 George Schreiner

In the 1920's a motor apparatus was purchased. In 1963 the company added a rescue truck to their equipment and in 1974 a new and much larger truck was purchased. In 1975 a new pumper which can carry 750 gal. of water was added. A new firehouse was built about 1968 on Eastern Union Turnpike. An Open House was held on May 18, 1975.

WEST SAND LAKE FIRE COMPANY

The West Sand Lake Volunteer Fire Company was organized during the year 1872. The first hand-drawn apparatus was delivered to them on April 25, 1874. It was purchased from the S. Button Co., of Waterford, N.Y. for \$650. In 1889 the company purchased a new hose cart. On May 25, 1897 the company fought their largest fire since the existence of the company. The hotel owned by Fred Brewster burned.

The fire District of West Sand Lake was incorporated on the 17th day of February 1876, and the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation was celebrated on the 17th of April 1926. Many new pumpers were purchased between the year 1889 and 1979. A new fire house was erected in 1975. The growth of the Fire Company and Fire District is an example of the steady progress in fire protection.

TABORTON FIRE COMPANY

The Taborton Fire Company #3 was organized in 1958. In May 1975 the Fire Company became coed. Six women firemen joined the company to help fight fires during the day when most of the men are working.

Taborton organized a First Response Team of the Sand Lake Ambulance in March 1978.

BREWSTER HOUSE. John J. Flynn,
 Proprietor. West Sand Lake, N. Y.



Today, 1979, our Town has grown. We have 3 Funeral Homes, 3 Banks, 3 Post Offices, 2 Drug Stores, many Beauty Shops, Food Stores, Card and Gift Shops, Clothing Stores, Hardware Store, Printing Shop, Gas Stations, Glass Service, Lumber and Building Supplies, Contractors, Lawn and Garden Equipment, Plumbers, Fuel Oil Dealers, Restaurants, Insurance, Real Estate, Lawyers, Septic System Cleaning, Excavating, Jewelry Stores, Liquor Stores, Appliance Stores, Barber Shops, Furniture Store, Laundromat, Dry Cleaning, Knit Shops, and many other businesses right here in our Town. We also have an efficient Police Department and a very competent Highway Department.

The Town is presently in the midst of constructing a sewer system. Something that has been much needed for years. We are also one of the first towns to have our own Cable TV Station. Our Town Board meetings and other programs can be broadcast live from our Town Hall. Cable TV is being installed throughout the Town. Our Town is a First Class Town, and we are still growing.

Many things have been accomplished under the able and capable leadership of our Town Supervisor, Sidney S. Gallant, who has served our Town fairly and honestly as Supervisor since 1970. We will greatly miss Mr. Gallant, and the Town will be hard pressed to find as honest, fair and dedicated a person as he has been.

Our best wishes for a happy retirement to Sid and Doris Gallant.

Footnote:

Because of the time element, I have only briefly covered a few of the organizations and places in our Town in this volume. Perhaps a more complete history can be published in the future.

This history can be added to the Sand Lake Historical Society's Publication, "Sand Lake History", which will cover more places.

Madolyn V. Carpenter
Town Historian

SOURCES

History of Rensselaer County, by Nathaniel B. Sylvester

Landmarks of Rensselaer County, by George Baker Anderson

Old Newspaper Clippings

Notes of Joseph Sproule's

Notes of Sanford Young's

Memories of Local Residents

Anniversary Booklets

Old Stationery

Old Catalogues

Old Business Directories

Own Memories and Research