



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 31, Number 3

Spring 2005

From the president Invitation to Heritage Day April 16

Reading the book by Huybertie Pruyin Hamlin of Albany, New York, listening to recollections of folks closer to home, residents of the Town of Sand Lake, and considering my memories of watching large bales packed with wool pass on trucks along Route 43 toward Averill Park, the richness of our heritage and value of sharing the memories for information and entertainment, enhances our sense of self. Each of us is important!

Welcome the opportunity for sharing at Heritage Day at Sand Lake Municipal Center, Route 66, Sand Lake. The purpose of Heritage Day is to enable town residents to share historic pictures, letters, deeds, Bible records, dairies or other documents with the Society or Town Historian. The historic material will be scanned on site and returned immediately. We will only keep a scanned copy for our records. We will also record any information or stories you have to tell us.

The event also includes:

- the displays of collections in the meeting room
- flags from John Kacharian's collection in the conference room
- glass from Glass Lake
- pictures of Totem Lodge
- pictures of historical interest permanently on display in the Town Hall
- Town Historian Judy Rowe will be in her office
- Copies of pictures in the collections of the Sand Lake Historical Society will be on view
- Display of Faith Mills items is available to see
- Major George Quamo's medals in picture will be displayed
- the Bicentennial patchwork quilt can be seen
- Pictures of the one-room schools will be on display.
- Refreshments served in the cafeteria

A series of note cards is being created beginning with scenes of West Sand Lake village. Hopefully they will be available for Heritage Day. A map will guide you to the various displays areas.

You may have a collection you would like to show-off. Arrange for reserved table space by telephoning Mary French at 518-674-5710.

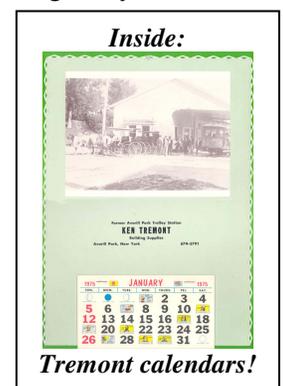
The Heritage Day event date is April 16, 2005, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Sand Lake Historical Society is grateful for this opportunity to meet more residents, renew acquaintances and bring history of the area into focus.

Thank you to Chris Kronau, town clerk, Judy Rowe, town historian, Jane Minotti, librarian, and Boy Scouts of Troop 525, members of the Society and volunteers for your participation in making this event possible.

Make an appointment with me to record an audio tape of reminiscing while you visit at Heritage Day.

Looking forward to sharing the rewards of our history continues.

Thanking the Board for their support this year is a pleasure. — Nancy W. Davis, president



Mark your calendars....

April Meeting: The Sand Lake Historical Society will hold a program meeting at 7:30PM on Tuesday, April 12th at Sand Lake Baptist Church 2960 NY 43 in Averill Park. Mike Speranza will present a program "Rope Making on the Farm". Dave and his son Mike are the only suppliers of hand laid "tarred" hemp cordage/rope in the New World! Refreshments will be served after the meeting and the public is invited.

Annual dinner/meeting May 10: The annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at the Lakeview on Crystal Lake. Following a social time from 6:30-7:00 p.m., we'll enjoy a family-style dinner of roast beef and turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, red cabbage and lemon pie for dessert. Cost is \$15.00. Program for the evening will be Stuart Murray of America's Song on *The Story of Yankee Doodle*. Please return the form (elsewhere in this issue) by May 1, 2005.

The number after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* is the May expiration date of your membership dues. If your number is 2005, you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership. We look forward to having a fully up-to-date membership list. Please use the form found elsewhere in this issue when you send in your dues.

Several of you have signed up to tour *Signature Stones* in the old Faith Mills complex. We will be having a tour there on **Tuesday, May 17, at 1:00 p.m.** If you know someone who worked there be sure to invite them to come and reminisce.

On **June 4 at 2:00 p.m.** we will be going to the *Burden Iron Museum*, which is connected with the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway. The Meneely bells exhibit is their main feature. Powerpoint slide shows are available to help interpret the items on display. You'll be amazed at the history in this building *inside and out!*

On **June 11 there is a program from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** at Schodack Island State Park on *Mohican Indians in Rensselaer County*. Steve Komer, who was our speaker at the November 2004 program meeting, will speak on current activities of the Mohican nation, and local historian Warren Broderick will speak on identification of Native American sites in Rensselaer county. The program is free; however, there is a \$6 per vehicle access fee to the State Park.

Errata

In our last issue of *Historical Highlights* (Volume 31, Number 2, Winter 2005), there was an error in the second last paragraph of the Hastings article on page 5: *While supervisor, the hydroelectric plant was torn down...should have read...While supervisor, the 1902 coal-fired steam electric generating plant of the Troy and New England Railway was torn down. Clifford donated the material....* We apologize for the error.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of Alan Fuess, Grace Briscoe and Ross French presents the following slate for the Board of Trustees:

- For election to a second term — *Grace Briscoe, Karen Wood.*
- For election to a first term — *Barbara Mohan, Ross French, Clare Radz, Donald Radz.*

SLHS Web site

If you haven't done so recently, take a look at our web site: <http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory>.



Recent additions to the site include "Clifford Hastings brings electricity to Sand Lake" as featured in the last newsletter. Other recent additions include a link to the Town of Sand Lake web site and to local historical societies and other history resources.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the site. E-mail: <sandlakehistory@aol.com>.



Troy and New England Railway Averill Park Terminal/Tremont Lumber By Mary French

An old timer, a.k.a. Bob Lilly, driving past the new Tremont Lumber on Route 43, is reminded of the time when it was located in the old depot of the Troy and New England Railway.

The Depot?? Where was that?

In the 1890s, when the Averills were involved in the Averill Park Land Company and the development of the area, they were also helping establish a trolley line that would run from Troy to New England passing through Averill Park.

The Averill Park Passenger and Freight Terminal was built by Edward Hack & Conrad H. Ackanower in 1896. It was a wonderful depot with an indoor waiting room and ticket window. It had an extended roof that covered the tracks for boarding the trolley in inclement weather. For years it served the summer vacationers going to the Crystal Lake beach. At first, horse-drawn carriages lined up there waiting to convey passengers to the many lake-side hotels. Later, modern “horseless carriages” replaced the horse-and-buggy taxis. It was a busy place until March 31, 1925, the date of the last run of the trolley line.

In 1926, the depot was purchased by William Rendert. He enclosed the open passenger boarding area and used it as a warehouse for his Ford dealership. Sometime later, the Boyce Lumber Company took over the building and used it for lumber storage.

In 1958, Ken Tremont started his lumber business in the depot. It served the community for their building needs until 1985, when Tremont moved to its new and larger store and lumber yard.

With the collecting of the old Tremont calendars, old time picture nostalgia got to me. So driving down behind the Church of the Covenant, what I came to was a vacant lot. The depot had to be torn down and I found out this occurred in 2004. Future generations will have to rely on many photos like the ones we have on the calendars and in the *SAND LAKE* book and postcards collections to visualize a bygone era. Do you hear the not-so-hidden message to check with the Historical Society and Town Historian to preserve these links to our heritage?

And a *big thank you* to the Tremonts for their gift to the town for over 20 years of nostalgia for old timers and not-so-old timers too!!!

Tremont Lumber Calendars



1961: The Trolley station for the Troy and New England Railway. Here is shown the station with the boarding houses on either side and the now “motorized” taxis ready to take the passengers to their desired destinations throughout Averill Park, Burden Lake, Sand Lake and Taborton. Both of the houses are still standing. The station was razed in 2004.



1962: Hilke’s Averill Park Hotel. This picture can be compared to the two in the *SAND LAKE* book. On p. 53, it was Scram’s Collegiate Institute; p. 46 shows it when Horatio Averill converted it into the hotel. It is now the site of the Church of the Covenant.



1963: Travelers’ Rest. This picture gives a close-up of the beautiful hotel that stood where Miller’s Automotive Services is now. We get a side view of the hotel on p. 43 of the *SAND LAKE* book. It housed the Averill Park Post Office in the 1920s and was destroyed by fire in 1939.

1964: Burden Lake Hotel, a.k.a. Maple Grove Hotel on Burden Lake. This picture is of the hotel built after the one shown in the *SAND LAKE* book on p. 73 was torn down. This building had two fires one in 1968 and again in 1986.

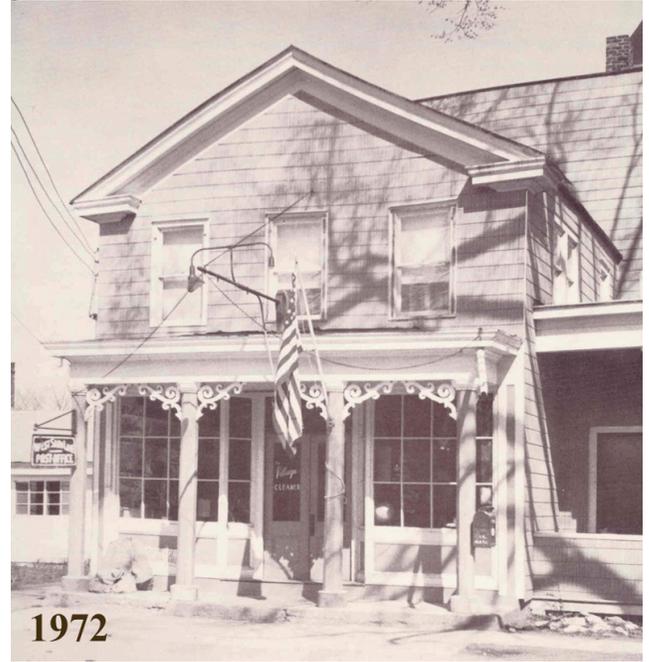


1966: The calendar identifies this picture as “**Lakeview Hotel — Sand Lake, NY.**” Closer investigation determined it is Hogarty’s on Burden Lake Road. The building still stands and is an apartment house. In the 1960s, Red Cross swimming lessons were held on the beach.



1969: McLaren Knitting Mill. Compare this picture to the one in the *SAND LAKE* book on pp. 24-25 showing McLaren Knitting Mill, Thermo Knitting Mill (now Bonded Concrete) and Cedarhurst. In this picture, the trolley tracks that ran between the mill and Cedarhurst can be clearly seen.

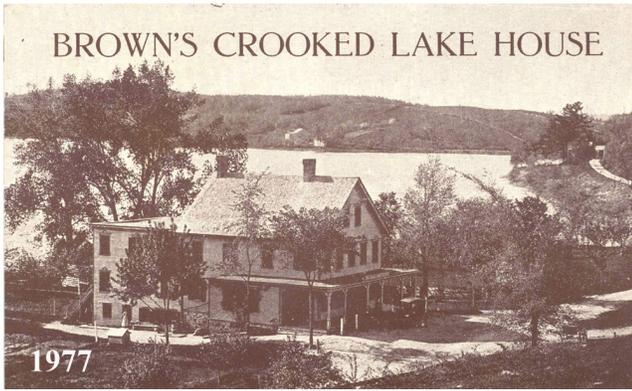
1972: West Sand Lake Post Office. Here we have a closeup of the front of the West Sand Lake Post Office. The picture in the *SAND LAKE* book on page 11 gives a good view of its location on Albany Street. In 1978 the post office relocated to the 43 Mall.



1975: Troy and New England Railway. Here’s a busy picture of the trolley arriving at the station and the horse and buggy taxis and drivers available for the passengers to be transported to the end of their journey.



1977: Brown’s Crooked Lake House (next page). This photo is very similar to the earlier one in the *SAND LAKE* book on page 94 when it was Minahan’s Wendell Inn circa 1910. When it was Brown’s, Gov. Theodore Roosevelt and his family were frequent guests.



1986: Lake Pharmacy — old and new buildings. Page 20 of the *SAND LAKE* book shows the mural of Burton Thomas's home painted on the side of the new pharmacy at the Bicentennial. This was the site of his home. Sand Lake Dry Cleaning & Laundromat is now on that site.



1986
Date unknown: C. A. Nash Grocery Store. Can you help with this photo? When was Nash's Grocery Store at the location in this picture, which shows it on the northeast corner going up Taborton Road? Chester Nash acquired the A.E. Horton Store (now Jill's Hidden Gardens) as shown on p. 80 of the *SAND LAKE* book in 1911.



Because of space constraints the following calendar pictures will be on the Sand Lake Historical Society web site and may be found in the *SAND LAKE* book or the Spring 2004 issue of *Historical Highlights*.

Pull out your *Images of America SAND LAKE* and find the following Tremont calendar prints: 1965, I.N. Wright's Drug Store in 1900, p. 48; 1967, Elkhorn Hotel – Now Journey's End before 1928 – West Sand Lake, p. 15; 1968, Crapes Hotel, p. 80; 1971, Bart Warren's Blacksmith Shop, p. 24; 1974, First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake, p. 82; 1975, William Mielenz's Wagonmaker's Shop, p. 26; 1981, Sunday Morning after Mass, St Henry's Church, Averill Park, p. 50; 1982, Glass Lake and the M.E. Church, Sand Lake, p. 92; 1984, Community Club House, built by W. D. Mahony, Jan. 1919, as a Recreation Building for the Millworkers and Townspeople, p. 70; [No date] Main Street Averill Park, p. 42; [No date] Brewster House West Sand Lake — now A.K. Wolfe, p. 14.

In the feature article on the one-room schools in the *Historical Highlights* Spring 2004, please find these Tremont calendars: 1983, District School #1 Sheer Road; [No date] Glass Lake School District #8. If anyone can fill in the dates for any of the calendars or has any additional issues, please contact Mary French at 674-5710.

Former Averill Park Trolley Station
KEN TREMONT
 Building Supplies
 Averill Park, New York 674-5791

1975	JANUARY						1975
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	
				2	3	4	
5	6		8	9	10		
12	13	14	15	16		18	
	20		22	23	24	25	
26		28			31		

FORWARDING/ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Sand Lake Historical Society
Post Office Box 492
West Sand Lake, New York 12196

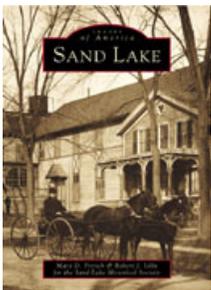
<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

E-mail: sandlakehistory@aol.com

Historical Highlights

Bob Lilly and Mary French, Co-Editors

Andrew Mace, Publisher



Sand Lake Historical Society

Name _____

Number of Dinners (\$15.00 each) _____ Dinner Subtotal \$ _____

Membership: Join / Renew

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$5 per individual _____ \$8 per family _____

Grand Total enclosed:

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