

HISTORY OF SAND LAKE

(June 19)

The town of Sand Lake, N. Y. was formed in 1812 by taking parts of Berlin, North and East Greenbush and Poestenkill and is bounded on the north by Poestenkill, on the south by Schodack and Nassau, on the west by North and East Greenbush and consists of 21,968 acres, which are mountainous in the east, with an elevation of 980 feet above tide water, and is noted for its lakes and fine scenery.

The lakes are Glass, Crooked, Crystal, Burden, Reichards, and several smaller ones, with the Wynantskill and Tsatsawassa the principle creeks. The villages and hamlets are Taborton, Glass Lake, Sand Lake, (formerly Sliters Corners) Averill Park, (formerly East Sand Lake) West Sand Lake, (formerly Ulineville) Sliters Post Office, (formerly South Sand Lake). The town was first settled in 1767 by two families named Adams and Brett, one being the pioneer family. Among the first settlers was Nicholas Fellows who kept the first hotel in this section. The first grist mill was built in 1768 by William Carpenter and Joshua Luckenwood. Solomon Taylor opened the first store in 1795.

West Sand Lake at one time had two hotels, three stores, four meat markets, four blacksmith shops and two wheelwrights. It also had a race track. One of the county fairs was held there for some time but was later transferred to Rensselaer Park. At the present time, it is held at Schaghticoke. Dr. Uriah M. Gregory was the first physician.

The first turnpike was built in 1795 from Albany to Berlin, which in 1849 became a plank road to Sand Lake known as the Albany and Sand Lake Plank Road. This road, built by a town company and having several toll gates, afterward became the property of Samuel Fox and last of all was owned by Daniel Layden. About thirty years later, the Troy and Sand Lake Road was built and became a stage route to Troy. The town

of Sand Lake has had but one railway, a trolley line from Albion to Averill Park, known as the Troy and New England, built in 1895. It gave excellent service until 1925 at which time it was superseded by busses. The town has nearly 1,000 miles of highways.

The Wynantskill Hydro Electric Company was started about 1913 by the Hastings brothers at their old flouring mill. The first post office opened about 1840 with Frost Myers as Postmaster. The first church in town, a Lutheran, was built of logs on a farm now owned by Irving Cipperly. The church was moved into West Sand Lake in 1816. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1805 and the Baptist Church in 1831; the Evangelical Lutheran Church at West Sand Lake in 1832 the Methodist Church at Glass Lake and the Salem Evangelical of West Sand Lake in 1845, and the Methodist Olive Chapel at Averill Park in 1875. The Methodist Church of West Sand Lake was organized about 1844 and St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church in 1868. The town has three large cemeteries.

The first select school was opened about 1825. Known as Gregory's, it was located nearly opposite E. Benders. The Sand Lake Academy was located where the Averill Park Post Office now is. The first professor was William H. Scram and the first teacher, Alva Traver. Scram afterward built the Sand Lake Collegiate Institute in 1852, located where the Park Hotel was later destroyed by fire. Brookside Seminary was kept by Harvey Boone on the Albert Fox grounds and later a private school was opened by Mrs. Nellie Clark where Boarer's Hotel is now located.

Among the noted associations of the town is the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, organized March 21, 1878 with offices at Sand Lake, and the Sand Lake Association for the Mutual Protection against Horse Thieves, organized April 28, 1849. The noted lawyers of the town were Cornelius Snyder of West Sand Lake,

Hogn Hoag and Samuel Gregory of Sand Lake. The doctors were Gregory, Clark, Ball, Elmore, Carmichael, Hull, Reichard, Kreicker and many others. The prominent citizens of the town included B. A. Thomas of West Sand Lake who was the most accurate surveyor and finest penman in eastern New York, having laid out twenty-five cemeteries and public parks, farms and village lots. The noted families of early days were Averill, from whom the Park took its name, Knowlsons, Fox, Peck, Aiken, Carmichael, Buttz, Gregory, Gabeler, Kane and many others at Sand Lake. Those of West Sand Lake were Uline, Thomas, Cipperly, Youngmans, VanDerzee, Donaldson, Traverk, Fellows, Hegamon, Aiken, McClaren and several others. The first supervisor in 1813 was Calvin Thompson and the town clerk was David E. Gregory.

The early industries of the town were four textile mills, one satinet mill and one straw paper mill, located in the eastern part of the town. There was one knitting mill and one woolen yarn mill at West Sand Lake. The yarn mill was located on the place now owned by Professor Clark. The manufacture of glass on the banks of Glass Lake was begun in 1788 by three Dutchmen who operated it for several years. William Richmond went to England dressed as a beggar and traveled as a bagpipe player through the principal glass manufacturing cities, engaging employees as he went for the factory at Glass Lake. Thomas Frothingham of Boston was the first Superintendent who afterward became State Senator.

West Sand Lake at one time was the home of a first-class brass band. There are four survivors -- Ephraim Hastings of this place, and Matthias Taylor, John Dere, Adelbert Lappeus, all of Rensselaer. Mr. Taylor celebrated his ninetieth birthday a short time ago.

For several winters a singing school was held at West Sand Lake under the direction of Professor Wood

who was a fine violinist. At the close of each session a largely attended concert was held. As a result of them our community still retains some splendid singers. Our town is also noted for its famous clambakes. George Fredenburgh, owner and developer of Brookside Park, is known far and wide for his skill and efficiency in these clambakes.

The town of Sand Lake was the first in the production of strawberries of excellent quality. In one day, 2600 quarts was gathered at the Uline farm, and 5000 quarts on the Hastings farm. There was also produced on the same farm 1200 barrels of potatoes in one season.

All in all, Sand Lake is one of the best towns in Rensselaer County.