

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Published Quarterly.....July 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer-supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.

All Roads Lead To Alden July 5

(from the front page of The Alden Advertiser, June 15, 1915)

Fourth of July in Alden

(1915)

The list of attractions to be staged by the Park Commission for the Independence Day celebration to be held July 5th (*the 4th was on Sunday that year*) grows in number daily. Never before in Alden's history has such a great effort been made to provide amusement and diversion for people. The day will be chock full of interest from the time the big guns announce the start of the great parade, until the last Roman candle is set off at night.

Reports from the committee on parade indicate that the largest and most spectacular parade ever held in Alden will be in line on July 5. The various fraternal organizations are busily putting out their best efforts to produce floats of surpassing beauty. The parade will start promptly at 11 a.m. and will traverse the following route:

From Railroad St. at the Creamery to Mechanic St., Main St. (*Broadway*) to Crittenden St. to Irving St. to Emerson St. to Main St. to Kellogg St. Railroad St to Exchange St. to Main St. to Park Bath(*house*) and countermarch to square.

The most interesting ball game to be played in Alden this year will be played on the school grounds at 4 p.m. (*The*) teams will be the Alden High School team, Champions of the Erie county High School League, and the famous Seneca Indian team. The mere announcement that the Indians will play ball is sufficient to insure a crowd. The Indians, besides being expert ball players never fail to interest fans by their spectacular manner of coaching and playing. (*material lost in crumbled edge along fold*) induced to come here and it is eminently fitting that the Seneca Indians be added to the other star attractions secured for July 5.

The indefatigable effort of those having the 4th of July celebration in charge is remarkable. Announcement has just been made that Sterling and Margarete, one of the most famous aerial and acrobatic troupes in the United States, have been secured at quite a cost, to give (*an*) outdoor performance (*that*) will be free to the public. To those who have not seen this wonderful pair in their lightning fast aerial act, it will only be unnecessary to say: "Come, a rare pleasure is in store for you."

*This advertisement appeared
later in the paper*

<p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p> <p>AT</p> <p>ALDEN, N.Y., JULY 5TH, 1915</p>
<p>Grand Parade at 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Exercises in the Grove. Reading of the Declaration of Independence Patriotic songs</p>
<p>Speaker of the day, Hon. John M. Hull</p>
<p>Baseball</p> <p>ALDEN HIGH SCHOOL, League Champions vs. SENECA INDIANS, one of the most famous teams in Western New York</p>
<p>RACES OF ALL KINDS Fine Prizes Free Outdoor Aerial and Acrobatic Acts Sterling and Margarete</p> <p>Moving Pictures, Afternoon and Evening DANCING Meals served at all Hours</p>



VILLAGE PARK
(now Alden Firemen's Park with bandstand)
Looking West
Showing Union School (now ACTS) left of center
Presbyterian Church(now parking area) center

Karen Muchow Curator

EXHIBIT TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE ERIE COUNTY FAIR

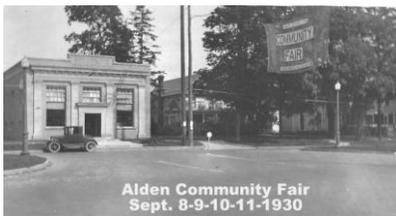


Graphic compliments of Erie County Fair

The theme for the fair this year is

WILD ABOUT THE FAIR

August 8-19



Committee Chairman Keith Stone along with committee members Karen Muchow, Mary Stone, Larry Kocher, Cassandra Stone, Sandra Dussault and Amy Stone have been working diligently on an exhibit for the fair. The subject of the exhibit is *The Alden Fair Sponsored by the Alden Grange, 1920 thru 1932.* The committee is looking for additional artifacts and photos of the Alden Fair. If you have any or know where we may borrow some please call Keith at 937-6050. All items will be returned.



Photo of Erie County Fair Historical Building by Tom Wolf Imaging

The Alden exhibit will be housed in the Erie County Fair Historical Building along with 18 other area exhibits. There are additional attractions both inside and on the grounds.

All exhibits will be judged and will compete for monetary awards ranging from \$100 to \$250.

The building is open from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Keith Stone Chairman

*CENTURY HOUSE
12923 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY*

The following account is provided by owners Rick and Karen Savage.



The Alden Century House located at 12923 Broadway, which has been owned by Rick and Karen Savage since 1985, retains its original farm house style. It is comprised of an original one story section that is of post, beam, and plank construction and a later 2 1/2 story balloon framed section that is circa 1880. The earliest section of the home may date to 1836, when Wilhelm Willink and others conveyed the premises and more to William Drayton. The Drayton family owned the property from 1836 through 1871, when it was conveyed to a Joel and

Elvira Stilson. In 1886 it ended up in the hands of the Wilhelm family, when Phillip Wilhelm acquired it from the Stilson. The property was conveyed to several different members of the Wilhelm family from 1886 through 1965, when Frank and Irma Raynor acquired the property. The Raynors owned the property until 1985, when the Savages purchased it and two of the forty acres that the property then encompassed.

Interesting facts about the home include that the 3 foot thick stone basement was added under the entire house when the 2 1/2 story section was built in 1880 or so. It originally had a dirt floor, and the Raynors had a concrete floor poured under their ownership. There are no drains in the basement, yet it remains absolutely dry due to the fact it sits on a knoll, and there is excellent gravelly soil on the property. The wooden beams in the basement, which measure 12" by 12", were either unused beams that were meant for a barn, or used barn beams, as they have mortises in them that were never used in the house construction. There are 10" by 10" sill beams around the entire perimeter of the home.

The house includes a large living room that goes the depth of the house and was once a parlor and sitting room. There are 3 bed-rooms upstairs, along with a full bath. Above the second floor is a walk up attic. There is a small office downstairs off the living room, a master bedroom, a full bath, and a large combination kitchen/sitting/dining area downstairs. The kitchen and the master bedroom both have French doors to the screened in front porch, which runs the entire length of the lower story. In the summer, the French doors can be opened to cool breezes provided from the numerous century-old maples and towering pines that flank the driveway and shade the front yard. The house sits about 220 feet back from Broadway.

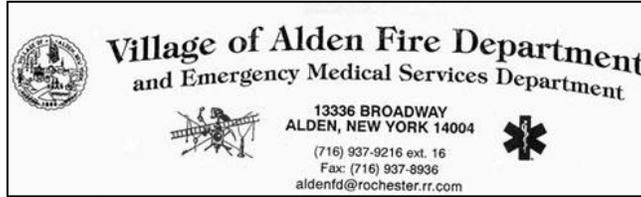
Over the 27 years that the Savage's have owned the property, all systems have been updated, and most of the home remodeled in a manner that attempted to retain the original character as much as possible. A detached 936 square foot garage was added in 2003, and is used for Rick's car and truck hobby. The only outbuilding remaining from the original farm is a small barn. Karen has planted and tended numerous gardens over the nearly 3 decades they have lived on the property. Their grandsons now play and roam the adjacent vacant acreage that Rick and Karen's children, Jeremy and Rachel, once did as they grew up. This old Village Century House has been a lasting home to several families in its history.

Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company, Inc.

On flag day, June 14, Mr. Robert Iggulden of the Alden Hook and Ladder Fire Company presented a program about the history of the department, it's many challenges, as well as photos of many major fires and auto accidents. Bob has been with the fire service most of his life, carrying on the family tradition his dad had started.

The history of the "fire service" goes back to Philadelphia, having been initiated by Benjamin Franklin. In time, fire brigades were set up all over the country. The Alden Fire Brigade goes back as early as the 1870's, when the town bought basic equipment such as a hand pump pulled by men, and leather buckets. At that time, the mayor was the fire chief. The first fire company was formed about 1890 by Mr. Frank Westcott when a hook and ladder truck was purchased.

In 1899, a 110 foot tall stand pipe was constructed as a source of water. The hand pumps were no longer needed.



Members of the Alden Fire Dept., Fred Blowers and Ralph Davis (not shown), were on hand to assist Bob Iggulden.

That same year, The Alden Hose Co. was formed, and within months of the formation of The Alden Hose Co., The Alden Rescue Hook and Ladder Co. was formed.

Mr. Iggulden passed around several photos documenting major fires, as well as the many vehicles acquired over the years.

One of the largest fires in Alden's history was the destruction of the Empire Hotel by suspected arson on Christmas Eve 1949.

By 1952, times had changed, and the two separate organizations merged out of necessity. With modern transportation,

many people worked out of town, and were no longer available to drop everything and respond to an emergency. The merging of the two separate organizations made for a much better organization. In two consecutive years of the 70's, the Alden Fire Company was tested rigorously. In 1976, an ice storm created a severe emergency situation. The following year, the famous "Blizzard of 77" made for a long term emergency situation. Over the years there have been countless fires be it barn, grass (especially along the rail road tracks) or house, many photos of which Mr. Iggulden had available for viewing. Today, thankfully, building fires are much less common due to safety improvements. Accidents and health emergencies, however, remain constant.

We thank Mr. Iggulden and all the fire and rescue volunteers for their dedication in keeping our community the safest possible!

Grannytown Cookbook Recipes Still Needed



Many thanks to those of you who have been kind enough to submit recipes for the Grannytown Cookbook, planned for Christmas 2012 publication.

We are still in need of many more submissions and would like to include your recipe(s)—family favorites, those handed down through the generations, and others you especially like. You may mail them to the Society at 13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004 or send them to AldenHistSoc@gmail.com.

Notes from the President

Gil Dussault



Spiffy -----That is the word that comes to mind these days when I see the front of our Historical Society. The bushes are neatly trimmed and growing well, the ground cover is beautiful and the freshly planted flowers are lovely. Combine that with our outstanding historical building and the view is picture perfect. It is most pleasing to the eye.



Much of what happens on the outside of our building is due to the tireless efforts of our Building and Grounds Committee, Fred Blowers and Larry Kocher...along with a few member volunteers and staff from the Town of Alden for good measure. The next time you drive or walk by.....take a good look and enjoy their attentive artistry. It is really very nice. Thanks everyone for a job well done!

I wish to call attention to the contribution by two of our dedicated member volunteers.....former Society trustees, Carl Matthies and Keith Stone.



Carl faithfully works on producing our newsletter on a quarterly basis with trustees, Clarke Burke and Elli DeFilippo. The team does a marvelous job of staying on schedule and putting out the publication with interesting articles and pertinent facts. He is the "Graphics Man" and is very skillful at using just the right drawing/picture to enhance the subject at hand. Makes things come alive...we really enjoy his contribution.

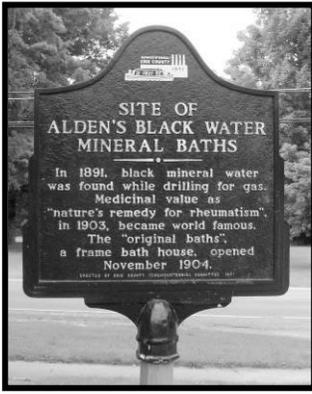
Keith is a multi talented volunteer whose efforts are very much appreciated. He has been working with Clarke Burke to set up our new Website which will be up and running shortly.

Additionally, he is Chairing our Collection Committee with our Curator, Karen Muchow and they have worked hard to streamline and enhance the collection process.

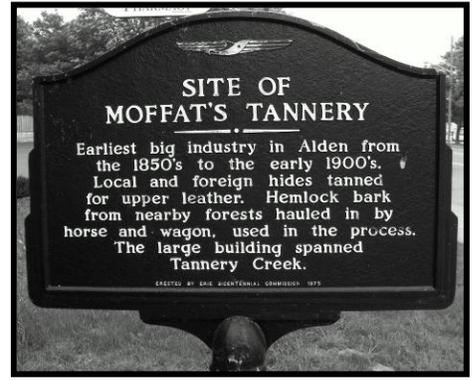
Lastly, Keith is Chairing our Erie County Fair Exhibit Committee with our curator and other member volunteers. I saw the preliminary setup the other day and our exhibit will represent Alden very well at this year's fair. I can't tell you what it is but this could be another ribbon in the making.....let's hope so.....Thanks Keith for all you do.



I am very grateful to all our member volunteers for the tireless help they give us every year. We have many needs as you might expect. If you have a special talent or just an interest in being part of the process...please let us know. Young or old....I am sure there is a place for you.....and it will be very much appreciated.



It is no secret that our Society has longed to initiate an ongoing Historical Sign Project for our community. It has been too long since the Black Water Bath and Tannery Creek signs were put in place. The cost can be high and perhaps daunting to some. There are many places locally that bear witness to something of rich historical importance or significance.



I believe as a Historical Society it is our duty to highlight those places or events for future generations. Now is the time to take action and accept the challenge. It has been too long. Soon we will make an official announcement of our Sign Project Plans and initiate a fund raising appeal for the summer to help us accomplish our goal. We desperately will need financial support from our loyal members as well as from the general public, both private and corporate. Please watch for more news in the Alden Advertiser, individual member mailings and our presence at the Alden Farmers Market. We are prepared to move along very soon. With your help we are going to get this done.....we promise.

Gil Dussault President

Curator's Report



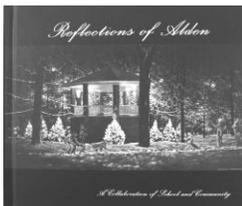
We have been busy with school visits. A class of middle school students toured the historical building and spent time at the Henske Road Schoolhouse. A high school class toured the building. Thanks go out to Sandy Dussault, Carl Matthies and Roberta Vincent for helping with the fifth grade classes' visits.



The children spent half the day at the schoolhouse getting the feel of what it was like to go to a one-room school and the other half at the Historical Building touring, making an advertising fan, churning butter and going on "The Great Bathtub Hunt."



We were very fortunate to receive several artifacts and pieces of ephemera from the Jean Moritz estate including a round oak table, a tilt top side table and the mailbox cubbyholes from the Town Line Post Office. Jean's father was postmaster at Town Line.



Copies of the soft cover, spiral-bound *Reflections of Alden*, are available at the Historical Society.

Karen Muchow Curator

Welcome New & Renewed Members

RENEWED MEMBERS:

Carolyn Burger
Helen Creighton
Delores Drogi
Beverly Nebrich
Maryann Sardella

NEW MEMBERS:

Thomas Dickinson
Charleen Bontrager Satkowski

BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Alden Advertiser
Alden Community Scholarship
Foundation
Alden State Bank
Elwood-Jordans Agency, Inc
Neill & Strong, Attorneys

RENEWED FAMILY MEMBERS:

Conrad & Carol Borucki
Ray & Noreen Crist
Ellen & Bernard Schenkler
Matthew & Antoinette Schriver

NEW FAMILY MEMBERS:

Steve & Marlene Kotlowski

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make check payable as noted below. Thank you for your support.

DUES

Single	\$8.00	Name.....
Family	\$12.00	Address
Lifetime.....	\$75.00
Business....	\$45.00	Phone.....	Email.....

A check payable to: *ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY* may be mailed to:

Judy Hotchkin, Membership Secretary
Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Please remember

The Alden Historical Society in your Estate Plans
A bequest in your memory or in memory of someone you love
can help preserve the heritage of our community

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Phone 937 3700

A special thank you to the ALDEN ADVERTISER for donating membership cards to the Alden Historical Society.

Judy Hotchkin, Membership

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the Alden Historical Society Building at 13213 Broadway, in the village, across from the bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The Alden Historical Society Building is open to the public every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm. Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700, 937-6400 or email aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Notices will be published in the Alden Advertiser in advance of the program.

Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting. Many times a guest speaker is present. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program. Afterwards enjoy an informal social complete with homemade refreshments.

Trustee meetings are normally held at the Alden Historical Building at 8:00 pm. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December (even months). Trustee meetings are open to membership. **Please note that the August 2nd trustee meeting will be held at 6 P.M. at The Whistle Stop Inn, 1338 Exchange Street. Refreshments will be Dutch Treat.**

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>TRUSTEES</u>	
<i>President</i>Gil Dussault	<i>Society Historian</i> <i>Alden Town Historian</i> ...Leonard Weisbeck	Fred Blowers	Judy Hotchkin
<i>V. President</i> ...Roberta Vincent	<i>Alden Town Board Liaison</i>Bill Weber	Conrad Borucki	Larry Kocher
<i>Secretary</i>Kris Rogers	<i>Editors</i>Elli DeFilippo/Carl Matthies/ Clarke Burke	Clarke Burke	Kris Rogers
<i>Treasurer</i>Elli DeFilippo		Bill Dabb	Sal Sardella
<i>Curator</i>Karen Muchow	<i>Publicity</i>Judy Hotchkin	Elli DeFilippo	Roberta Vincent
<i>Archivist</i>Karen Muchow		Gil Dussault	

Committee Members

Buildings & Grounds..... Fred Blowers, Trustee; Larry Kocher, Kris Rogers

Membership..... Judy Hotchkin, Trustee; Laura Loehr

Program Conrad Borucki, Trustee; Carol Borucki, Sue Muench, Sal Sardella, Roberta Vincent

Publicity

Announcements/News Articles..... Judy Hotchkin, Trustee; Laura Loehr

Newsletter..... Elli DeFilippo, Trustee; Carl Matthies, Clarke Burke

Collections Keith Stone, Karen Muchow, Curator/Archivist, Bill Dabb, Trustee; Thelma Dabb, Sandy Dussault

Fund Raising..... Gil Dussault, Trustee; Kris Rogers, Roberta Vincent

Audit 2012..... Clarke Burke, Trustee; Laura Loehr

Nominating..... Roberta Vincent, Trustee; Sue Galbraith

Special Committees:

Alden Historical Cookbook Kris Rogers, Trustee

Alden Fireman Parade Float, June 2012..... Kris Rogers, Trustee

Erie County Fair, Aug 2012 Keith Stone

Volunteers are always welcome and encouraged to assist

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JULY 2012 SUMMER BREAK

AUGUST 2012 SUMMER BREAK

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 ACTS TOUR, HISTORY, & PRESENT
7 PM, ACTS Building, 1470 Church St.



ALDEN CHRISTIAN THEATRE SOCIETY BUILDING



The Alden Christian Theatre Society celebrating 22 seasons of live performances in Alden.

Kathy Sutter will host the evening with an informative behind-the-scenes tour of the building, detailing its rich history and vibrant present, while showcasing the various presentations of the Alden Christian Theatre Society. As an added bonus, we are hoping to be treated to a brief excerpt from an ACTS production.

Plan on attending this special program and learn more about this integral part of our Alden community.

ARCHIVIST/ ASSISTANT CURATOR WANTED

We are looking for someone to serve as Archivist and Assistant Curator. As Archivist you would catalog ephemera articles and maintain the Obituary scrapbooks. As Assistant Curator you would help catalog acquired artifacts and set up displays. Computer knowledge is helpful. If you are interested, contact Karen Muchow at 937-3700 or 937-6400 or by email at AldenHistSoc@gmail.com.

**ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DATES TO REMEMBER
SUMMER 2012**

PROGRAM MEETINGS 7 PM	TRUSTEE MEETINGS Alden Historical Society Building at 8 PM
JULY 12.....Summer Break	AUGUST 2.....Members Invited <i><u>NOTE TIME AND VENUE CHANGE</u></i> <i>6 PM, WHISTLE STOP INN (Dutch Treat)</i>
AUGUST 9.....Summer Break	OCTOBER 4.....Members Invited
SEPT 13.....ACTS Tour, History, & Present <i>ACTS Building, 1470 Church Street</i>	DECEMBER 6.....Members Invited

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

www.alden.erie.gov

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ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Chartered by the Board of Regents
New York State Education Department
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