

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

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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.

Priceless Journals

One Saturday in early June 2007, an Alden woman walked into the Alden Historical Society with two large ledgers. They had been given to her by a coworker who had noticed the Alden connection.

They were not ledgers of the usual sort, but journals kept by Georgia Stone Tyler from October 1905 to May 1925, or as Georgia called them:

"The Tyler Family Record Book," Volumes I and II



Georgia Stone Tyler

Georgia was the daughter of Spencer and Sarah Lord Stone and had spent her childhood in Alden. Her father was a merchant and first master of the Alden Masonic Lodge. It is believed that Georgia attended the Alden Seminary (*Dr. Panek's office building*) and went on to Houghton College. In July 1880 she was asked to teach at Livingston Park Seminary in Rochester. She did so for the next eight years. After an absence of three years she was asked to return to Livingston Park as Associate Principal, the founder, Mrs. Curtis, being ill. In 1892, Georgia became Principal. A Rochester paper said in its announcement of the new management: "Few institutions devoted to the education of young ladies have achieved the distinction enjoyed by the Livingston Park Seminary." Georgia continued in that position until her marriage to Dr. Clarence A. Tyler of Alden in 1905.

The Livingston Park Seminary closed in 1935. The mansion, built in 1827 by Philip Livingston, was threatened with destruction in the 1950s. A prominent Rochester benefactor purchased it and had it carefully dismantled and stored until an appropriate location and use could be found. In 1970 he presented the house to the Genesee Country Village & Museum in Mumfords where it was rebuilt and is open to visitors as the Livingston-Backus House.

Continued on back



Georgia was Dr. Tyler's second wife, his first having been Minnie Eels of West Alden, the mother of his daughter Claribel. The Tylers lived in the large house across from Fireman's Memorial Park at 13140 Main Street.



Her journals tell of life in that big house as the wife of one of Alden's physicians. Dr. Tyler had an office in the house where he treated patients for a few hours each day. The rest of the day he was on the road, visiting patients from Crittenden to Cowlesville and beyond. The journals tell of his long hours, and Georgia's loneliness, especially after daughter Claribel married and divided her time between Alden and Buffalo.

The journals tell of traveling to Buffalo by train, shopping at AM&A's, and lunching at the LaFayette. They also tell of the trials and tribulations of traveling in the new automobiles when it was not uncommon to have at least two flat tires between here and Buffalo and back.



Georgia tells about activities of the Liberal Club—plays, dances, and dinners at Liberal Hall (now the Legion Hall). She was president of the club for many years. She mentions merchants and stores long gone and gives a wonderful glimpse of life in Alden in the early 1900s.



Baptist Church later Legion Hall

The two journals are now sprouting colorful sticky-note tabs indicating where there are references to the Alden Presbyterian Church for the history I am writing, references to the Bennett family that I have promised to transcribe for the Nunda Historical Society and references to Episcopal worship services in Alden long before the present Episcopal Church was organized.

The journals are available for reading at the Historical Society. Stop in some Saturday.

Karen Muchow, Curator

Visit From Former Aldenite



Last summer, former Aldenite Jim Nugent and his wife Ruth (photo at left) visited Alden. They live in Hawaii and also have a home in Reno, Nevada, where their son Jeff has a medical practice. They stopped in at the Historical Society for a mini tour and were fascinated by the black water bath display. Jim pointed out his maternal grandmother who was a masseuse at the baths (photo at right). Jim shared the following:



My grandmother's name is Henrietta Leutloff (nee Schwartz) and she was married to Max Leutloff. They had one daughter, Loretta Leutloff, my mother. Max was a hard worker, having a job on the railroad and working his small farm on Bullis Road. He suffered an untimely death from a hernia when Loretta was 3 years old, so Henrietta moved into Alden Township to a house on West Main Street, not far from the Black Water Baths. She needed to work, so she got a job as a masseuse at the Alden Bath house owned by William & June Fahringer, just up the street from her house. To my knowledge, she didn't drive or own a car. Her sister, Elizabeth Hinz, whose son Clarence Hinz lived on Baxter, moved in with her at some point, and she took in her brother, George Schwartz. That's about all I remember!

Jim's mother Loretta was the Librarian at Ewell Free Library for many years. His dad, Harold, was the Village Supt of Public Works...also for many years. They lived on Irving Street.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 2012 PROGRAM MEETING

Pan-American Exposition Revisited

With Historian C. Douglas Kohler



At our October meeting, Erie County Historian and Clarence Middle School history teacher C. Douglas Kohler presented a program on the Pan-American Exposition complete with memorabilia, slides, and even a brief video. He has a deep interest in the Exposition, and continues to search for information or memorabilia relating to it.

The Exposition took place in 1901, when Buffalo was the eighth largest city in the country, and two thirds of the American population lived within a day's travel. The building of the Expo took place over 1 1/2 years at a cost of about \$7 million (about double the estimated cost). The Expo opened in May, and ran to Nov. 1. Admission was 50 cents, but nearly one third of the attendees were exempt, as they worked or exhibited there.

Regrettably, very little remains, almost everything having been designed to be temporary. The Rumsey family leased 350 acres of land between Elmwood and Delaware to the fair with the stipulation that the land be returned as it had been before. To comply with this, most of the buildings were made of staff,

a mixture of plaster of Paris and horse hair. After the fair all this was pushed into canals which had been built around the area.

In the day, world's fairs were considered, as President McKinley stated, "Time keepers of progress." The Pan-American was laid out to show the progression of time. At the entrance there were displays of early cultures with earthy primal colors; as you progressed, the colors became bright pastels, and the technology buildings were at the upper end. There was a large stadium where all manner of events took place, from mock battles to parades. There were band shells, and the great John Phillips Souza played there twice. Among amazing exhibits were 100 train cars of displays from The Smithsonian, the Horticulture building with over a thousand roses, the world's largest guest book by Rand McNally, a mining and gem exhibit with gold bars and Tiffany gems, and a new invention called an x-ray machine, where, for a price, you could be x-rayed. There was a trip to the moon, on which many people really believed they had gone to the moon after having been greeted by moon-maids offering blue cheese! These are just a few examples of what went on.

Mr. Kohler had many pictures and post cards to show as he spoke. Sadly, one cannot separate the tragic from the Pan-American Exposition; it is where President McKinley was assassinated. Also, it was a money loser, as returns did not cover the immense cost. But, it gave unforgettable memories to those who attended, and is still remembered today.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 2012 PROGRAM MEETING

November Annual Meeting and Veterans Day Observation

The Alden Historical Society met for their annual meeting and Veterans Day observation on November 8. President Gil Dussault opened the meeting by calling for a moment of silence in memory of Aldenite, Sgt. Brett E. Gornewicz, killed in Afghanistan on November 3, while serving with U.S. Army Reserves. After sharing some reflections about our indebtedness to veterans and their role in safeguarding our freedoms, President Dussault invited the group to partake in the traditional pot luck supper.

Continued on back

The Veterans Day observation consisted of a presentation by Carol and Conrad Borucki based on a book about Medal of Honor winners. Carol reported that only the U.S. President can present the Medal of Honor, and it is the only military medal worn around the neck. Carol went on to describe the three distinct eras during which the Medal of Honor has been given (1861-1918, 1918-1963, and 1963-present) and the changes in the criteria governing the awards. In earlier eras, the medal was awarded for exhibiting high standards and distinguishing behavior. In recent years, the award has only been presented to those who have exhibited extreme valor by risking grave personal injury in combat situations. As such, it is frequently awarded posthumously.

REVIEW OF DECEMBER 2012 PROGRAM MEETING

Christmas Trivia Program Tests Our Knowledge

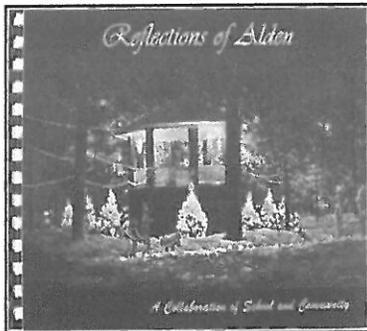


Conrad Borucki

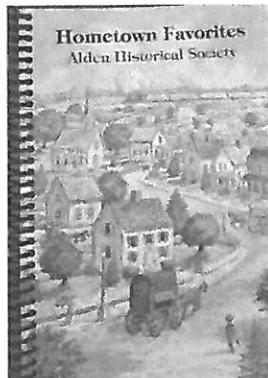
The Alden Historical Society's December program on Christmas Trivia proved to be a challenge for those in attendance. In putting together the evening's presentation, Program Chair Conrad Borucki researched little-known and some more commonly-known facts from areas as diverse as theater, music, literature, geography, spelling, botany, and history. The format for the program was a spirited competition between the females and the males in attendance. The gender with the superior capacity for recalling details won the competition. Christmas music, performed by Sue Muench on piano, and special holiday refreshments completed the evening.

Judy Hotchkiss, Elli De-Filippo, Clarke Burke, Publicity

We are pleased to report that the Historical Society recent publications are both still available



Reflections of Alden, the collaborative creation by Alden Middle School students and teachers, the Alden Art Club, Alden Historical Society members, and community volunteers, may be purchased at the Historical Society bldg. Price \$25.00



Hometown Favorites, the Historical Society cookbook, is the newest publication and is also available for purchase at the Historical Society building. The cookbook is a compilation of mouth-watering, favorite recipes contributed by society members. Price \$10.00.

Also available at the Historical Society building are autographed copies of *Images of America: Marilla*, by Hubert Kutter and Mary Beth Serafin, of the Marilla Historical Society. Price \$21.99

"Grannytown" - Paperless Transmission

In the interest of conserving paper and postage, the Historical Society offers paperless transmission of the newsletter. If you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter electronically, please send your email address to aldenhistsoc@gmail.com and put **e-newsletter** in the subject line. Thank you.



Newly Elected Trustees for term 2013 - 2015



Debbie Crist, a graduate of Alden Central, has resided in Alden for most of her life. She is the deputy clerk for the Town of Alden. She also serves the community as Alden American Legion Auxiliary Membership Chairperson. Debbie is married to Randal Crist. She will be membership chairperson for the society.



Christopher Gust, a long-time Alden resident, is also an Alden graduate. He is assistant vice president at Alden State Bank. Additionally, he is president of the Alden Chamber of Commerce. Chris is married to Jennifer Strong, Attorney for the Town of Alden. Chris will be involved with the newsletter and online publicity.

Elli De Filippo, Trustee, Editor

Notes from the President

Third Annual Bake Sale



As many of you know, our **Third Annual Bake Sale** on Saturday, December 1st, was a huge success. Success is not normally a thing that just happens. It is the result of good planning, hard work and effective execution. Those who were involved in the sale really stepped up and gave us their best efforts in the critical operating expense money maker. I sincerely want to thank our Bake Sale Committee, in addition to the many members who donated baked goods and cash to our endeavor. I particularly wish to thank those volunteers who called for donations and those who worked tirelessly at the sale most of the day. Of course, we are very grateful to the public who generously supported the sale.



The turnout for the Chamber of Commerce event, "Christmas in the Park" was very good. Foot traffic increased a great deal in the village, and we enjoyed seeing many familiar faces as well as a huge attendance by first-time, young and old visitors at our beautiful building. I was pleased that there was a lot of interest by those visitors to tour our facility and enjoy the many wonderful exhibits that our curator, Karen Muchow, had set up in the various rooms. The comments were very favorable, and I heard that some were looking forward to visiting us again in the future.



I must give special thanks to Mr. Joe Anzalone, our resident docent, who so skillfully guided those visitors through our many displays and exhibits. Joe has a wealth of knowledge and takes great pride in telling "The Alden Story." He does give us his best effort every time and we appreciate his contribution. Thank you, Joe-- You are really special.



Continued on back

Town Line Historical Sign Project

After legal review, we have received final approval from the Town Line Lutheran Church to place our boulder and historic marker on their property. If you recall, we are highlighting the Town Line secession and reunion story that spans the Civil War until the late 1940's.



If all falls into place, we should be looking at a warm springtime presentation/dedication--- more than likely on a Saturday.

Many hands and the generous support of our members and the public have made the success of this project possible. We are looking forward to the completion of our first ever sign project for the Alden Community. Stay Tuned!

At this writing, the boulder needs to be placed at the site and we need to decide on the final design for the marker.

Thank You and Congratulations

Two of our three trustees whose terms ended this year have retired from the Board. We are extremely grateful to Judy Hotchkin and Sal Sardella for their many years of service. Their contribution to our success has been meaningful and they will be missed. We are counting on their remaining active contributors and member/volunteers in the future. We are very happy that Karen Muchow has agreed to continue serving as curator and that Elli DeFilippo will remain on the Board. Both make important contributions to the functioning of the Society. We are looking forward to working with our two newest trustees, Christopher Gust and Debra Crist. Both of them are strongly community minded and willing to work to advance our mission. We are glad to have them on Board. Congratulations and Welcome!!!

Gil Dussault, President

Notes from the Collections Committee

The Collections Committee meets the third Saturday of every month (except this Jan) in the Historical Society bldg., at 10 AM. Anyone interested in assisting is encouraged to attend.

Keith Stone, Committee Chairman

Historical Sign Fund Appeal

We are very grateful for the generous support we have received relative to this appeal. As mentioned above, the marker will highlight the Town Line secession and reunion story. We have listed all the donors in the October issue of the Grannytown Gazette. Since then, we have received additional generous donations from:

Lester and Betty Eastwood

Coleen, Charleen, and Tiffany....In memory of Kenneth and Elaine Bontrager

Rosalie E. Kelley.....In memory of Donald E. Kelley

General Fund Donors

Recently the Alden Historical Society has received generous donations to the general fund from the following members:

Richard Davis, DDS and Sue Davis

Ralph Davis, DDS and Ruth Davis

Lester and Betty Eastwood

Please be advised that donations to the Alden Historical Society are not tax deductible since it is not a 501(c) 3 organization.

Welcome New & Renewed Members

NEW MEMBERS

Rhonda Wieder

RENEWED MEMBERS:

Helen Giczkowski
Laura Hacker
Edward Reich

With Deepest Sympathy

The Alden Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of *Ronald L. Smith* who passed away on October 11, 2012. Ron served the Alden community as town supervisor, village trustee, and as member of the Chamber of Commerce. He also operated the Alden Pharmacy as well as the Alden Medical Supply. Ron's wife, Karen, is a life member of the Alden Historical Society.

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:

Debbie Crist, 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.*

Please be advised that donations to the Alden Historical Society are not tax deductible.

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Phone 937 3700

Debbie Crist, Membership

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Historical Society Building, 13213 Broadway, 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. **Please note: During the month of January, the building will be closed for reorganizing and setting up new displays; will reopen Feb. 2.**

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.

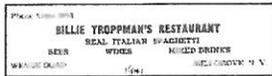
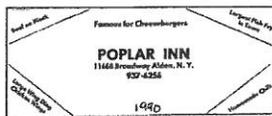
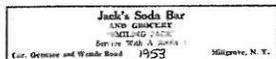
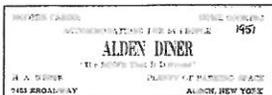
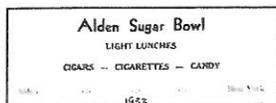
Trustee meetings are normally held at the Alden Historical Building at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December (even months). Trustee meetings are open to membership.

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

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATES TO REMEMBER WINTER 2013	
PROGRAM MEETINGS Community Center at 7 PM	TRUSTEE MEETINGS Alden Historical Society Building at 7 PM
JAN 10.....Lost Middlemen of Alden Cuisine	
FEB 14.....“Holiday of Love” Explored	FEBRUARY 7.....Members Invited
MAR 14.....The 50’s Revived	

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JANUARY 10, 2013.....LOST MIDDLEMEN OF ALDEN CUISINE
7 PM, Community Center



The first month of a new year is often a time to look ahead. Our first program of 2013, however, will take us back to earlier times and give us some “food for thought” as we examine many of the eating establishments that have departed from the Alden landscape.

We will reminisce about places that served everything from hot dogs to full course meals. We will also look at the many grocery markets, dairy stores, butcher shops, and produce markets that once made Alden their home. At the very least, this program should “whet your appetite.”

FEBRUARY 14, 2013.....“HOLIDAY OF LOVE” EXPLORED
7 PM, Community Center



This program is on February 14th –the “Holiday of Love.” Join us as we explore the many traditions and customs of St. Valentine’s Day. We’ll look at the significance of the chocolate, the flowers, the songs, and the paper valentines.

As an added bonus, Cupid himself has promised to share some of his research with us, and reveal interesting “tidbits” about certain Society couples. Will you be able to match Cupid’s findings with the correct couple? It should be a fun program.

MARCH 14, 2013.....THE 50'S REVIVED
7 PM, Community Center



Back by popular demand is Greg Kinal. Mr. Kinal, a Genesee County history teacher, will present a most informative and entertaining program about the decade of the 1950's. Among other things, the program will look back at the

history, the music TV and motion picture entertainment, the clothing, the sports, and the crazy customs and expressions of the day. Feel free to wear your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, leather jackets, and varsity sweaters.

Conrad and Carol Borucki, Program Committee

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Please note:
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ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

www.alden.cric.gov



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