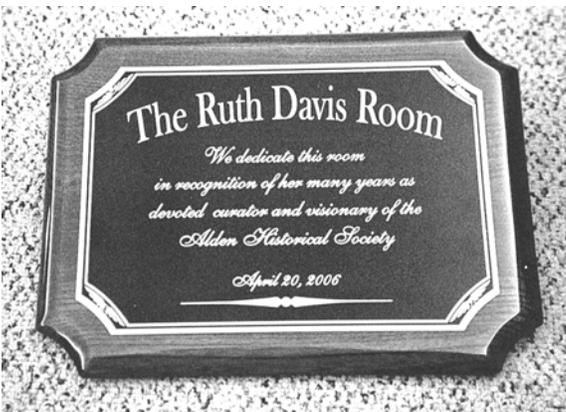




CENTURY OLD (circa 1840's) HOUSE
811 FOUR ROD RD.
SEE BELOW

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004



On April 10, 2006 the Alden Historical Society dedicated the meeting room in honor of Mrs. Ruth Davis in recognition of her past 20 years as our dedicated curator. Mrs. Davis is now our archivist.

CENTURY OLD HOUSE

The benefits of living in a very old house are many: high ceilings, wide halls, huge old trees, big farm kitchen. But it wasn't until I lived for a while in our circa 1840's house on Four Rod Road that I began to feel the connection to the many lives that were lived out in the same space, different times. Swinging on the kitchen porch with my newspaper, I realized with a start that women had worried about loved ones away at wars before, maybe sitting in that very spot - back to the Civil War and beyond.

Exploration in the Alden cemetery proved me right. The Young family, who lived here for more than forty years, lost a grandson in the Red River Expedition battle of the Civil War. With the help of the Alden Historical Museum, I've been able to trace their family business, a cheese factory near the corner at Broadway, and locate the nearby homes of two sons on properties carved off from the famil00y homestead and passed on for a dollar.

Since we moved in, I've been searching for an appropriate name for the property, in keeping with customs of the past. Imagine my thrill at finding a map showing the house now owned by Seth Brunck, who was born in Lancaster in 1856 and bought the farm from Young's widow in 1885, with a name! We now know we are proud occupants of Maple Lawn Farm!

Thanks, Historical Society. I'll be back to learn more about the people who left such a warm and wonderful spirit in their old house to enrich all who pass through here. Donald and Linda Sabo, owners and residents.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we will be starting 2007 with lots of exciting programs and displays. I hope you can join us for a time of learning, sharing and just plain fun.

It would be very helpful and much less expensive for us to let you know about what is going on if we could e-mail you instead of sending the newsletter by postal mail. If you have an e-mail address please notify the recording secretary, Laura Loehr at Lloehr3@netscape.net.

Please share this newsletter with your family and friends. The newsletter is mailed only to members of the Alden Historical Society, and is available at the Ewell Library and at Alden Town Hall.

I hope to see all of you at our meetings and events.

Roberta Vincent

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The historical society has, over the years, collected many items which are not for display, but for recording our history. Such things as school programs, accounts of early land-owners, organizations which flourished, war letters, local businesses and reports of important events are stored in our files. They are there for the use of anyone who would like to learn about Alden's past.

One of the histories which may be of interest to many is a series of articles written by Pharmacist Ralph Stowell, our first Town Historian. These articles appeared in the Alden Advertiser in 1953 and were reprinted in 1983. His stories start with his birth in 1887. He tells about some of the people he knew as a child and ends with the account of the 1953 addition to the Alden Central School. The articles have been photo-copied for the archives and events and names of people were catalogued by one of the members of the society. There is also a scrapbook of the reprinted series. You are welcome to read one man's remembrances of our town.

Ruth Davis

CURATOR'S CORNER

The "Christmas-In-The-Park" Open House on December 3rd brought many new visitors to the Historical Society building. They enjoyed our heat, and also the displays. We had one featuring some of the many Christmas postcards in our collection, and another showing some of the vintage and antique ornaments. The parlor was decorated with stockings hanging from the mantel, a tree with candles and even a "kissing ball" hanging in the doorway.

We have, to date, catalogued sixty-five new items in 2006. They include: a blanket made from the wool from the Folly Farm sheep, a painting of the Slate Banks, Charlotte Funke Dean's scrapbook, a stuffed toy horse on wheels, an expandable doll crib, jewelry, and silverware.

There is always something new to see. Artifacts are moved in and out of storage, and sometimes just displayed in a new way. Stop in some Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm to see for yourself.

Karen Muchow

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JAN. 11, 2007. 30th Anniv. Blizzard of '77

Remember the "Blizzard of '77" when lake-effect snow driven by 70 mile an hour winds buried our streets and vehicles. Twenty-nine deaths were recorded and damage was estimated at 300 million dollars. We will reminisce about this storm as well as any others that come to mind, for instance, the "October Surprise Storm".

FEB. 08, 2007 Laura Wilder's 140th Birthday

Born on February 7, 1867 we will celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder's 140th birthday. She was born in a little log house in the Big Woods of Wisconsin. Laura's childhood was spent traveling west by covered wagon, to Indian Territory in Kansas, to Grasshopper Country in Minnesota, and then to Dakota Territory, where she met and married Almanzo Wilder. In the 1930's and 40's Laura recorded her memories of those adventurous pioneer days in a children's series known as the "Little House"® books. Laura died when she was 90 years old at her home in the Ozarks of Missouri, she and her family will live forever in the hearts of her readers.

MARCH 08, 2007. Hull House

Gary Costello, Director of Hull Family Home & Farmstead, will be on hand to present a brief history of the Hull House located on Genesee St. in Lancaster. Built around 1810 by Warren Hull it is thought to be the oldest stone house in Western New York. Warren and his father were veterans of the American Revolutionary war.

*APRIL 19, 2007 Heartwood Wilderness Workshop

Denise Ellen Ashman, an adventure-base teacher and Naturalist for 21 years, will be our featured speaker. Denise designs and facilitates Action Learning programs for school age, community, corporate, non-profit and government groups. Her knowledge comes from a long line of Wilderness and Community skills mentors in North America and abroad.

Heartwood Wilderness Workshop is an experiential education organization dedicated to the preservation of indigenous skills and perspectives worldwide. Heartwood strives to teach, learn and practice sustainable Earth and Community/Team skills that foster a healthier connection with Humanity, Nature, and self.

MAY 2007. Progressive Dinner

Join us for a fun filled evening at our second ever Progressive Dinner. We will begin with hors d'oeuvres at the Elma Historical Museum. After a brief tour we move on to the Marilla Historical Museum for the main course and a brief tour. The dinner concludes at our own Alden Museum with plenty of homemade desserts. Cost for this event is \$5.00. Contact any officer of the various historical societies.

JUNE 14, 2007 40th Anniversary-Historical Bldg.

The Alden Historical Society was organized on April 21, 1965. Walden Roberts donated the building to the Town of Alden in November 1966 in memory of his wife to be used by the Historical Society as its museum. The museum was dedicated on June 25, 1967. We will celebrate this occasion with a big party. All charter members will be invited. All the successes and milestones made through the years will be recapped.

* Note that our April meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month.