

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

Prst Stad A
Postage Paid
Alden, NY 14004
Permit No. 6



ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
Chartered by the Board of Regents
New York State Education Department 1971

.....

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarterly

April 2007

With this issue we will begin to publish quarterly in order to give you more news and information.

WHY GRANNYTOWN?

The story is that when the early settlers met in 1823 to decide on the name for their town which had been newly separated from the Town of Clarence, Seth Estabrook suggested "Alden". He said the town was as small and as sweet as his mother-in-law, a lineal descendant of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame. Realizing their town had been named after a grandmother, the settlers affectionately referred to Alden as "Grannytown" for some years.

.....

OFFICERS

President.....Roberta Vincent
Vice President... Sal Sardella
Secretary.....Laura Loehr
Treasurer.....Ralph Davis
Curator.....Karen Muchow
Archivist.....Ruth Davis

Society Historian...Janet Koelbl
Alden Town Historian:
.....Leonard Weisbeck
Alden Town Board Liaison:
..... Arlene Cooke
Editor.....Carl Matthies

TRUSTEES

Fred Blowers Sal Sardella
Judy Hotchkin Ralph Stoos
Joe Kipfer Roberta Vincent
Carl Matthies Paul Werner
Marlene Roll

.....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that our museum will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make your check out to ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

DUES

Single.....\$5.00
Family.....\$10.00
Lifetime...\$50.00

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
PHONE.....E-MAIL.....

SEND TO:

Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 1400

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarterly

April 2007

MUSEUM:

The museum is located in the ALDEN HISTORICAL BUILDING at 13213 Broadway in the village across from the bank. The purpose of the museum is to show how the people of Alden have lived and worked and played. Here you may study the everyday things they made, used, wore, and cherished.

MUSEUM HOURS:

The museum is open to the public every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm.

Also open during the Alden Art Show in Sept. and during Christmas-in-the-Park in early December.

Special Children's Activity Days are planned for school holidays.

Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-6400 or 937-9256.

MEETINGS:

Meetings are held every second Thursday from September thru June. Business meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend...doors open at 7 pm so you have time to tour the museum.

An interesting and informative program follows a brief business meeting, many times with a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program. Afterwards stick around for a social complete with home made refreshments and informal socializing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Already we are into our 2nd quarter of 2007 and without a doubt our first quarter of programming was a tremendous success. We had very good participation and captured the interest of many local residents. Our 2nd quarter looks just as exciting and promises to be as much of a success. I wish to thank all our members and especially our guests for visiting us not only at our monthly programs but also on Saturdays. Please be sure to tell your friends about the upcoming programs and share this newsletter with them.

Roberta Vincent

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Being able to contact members easily is one of the Secretary's jobs. Help the Historical Society keep current with your correct address. Please notify us if you have a change of address. Also please send us your e-mail address to help keep mailing costs down. If we can e-mail the Gazette to you, that's one less stamp to purchase. Send your e-mail address to the Alden Historical Society, to the attention of Laura Loehr, Secretary. Thanks for your help!

Laura Loehr

ARCHIVIST REPORT

When you look over the archival files at the museum, it is obvious that the largest collection deals with Alden schools. There is an assortment of documents about the one- and two-room schools from as early as 1845. Some of these are school board minutes from the time before centralization. There are tax rolls from 1890 to 1900. A file on programs holds graduation programs as well as those from various performances given by the students. Some of these programs also have cast photographs. We also have some very interesting early catalogues listing courses offered by the school, as well as the requirements for a high school diploma. Records of the PTA are available. Various histories of the school are also on file.

In the upstairs storage closet you will find a collection of scrapbooks which were assembled by the office staff of the school. These are clippings from newspapers – mostly the Alden Advertiser – which are about students, faculty and events. These date from 1930 to 1945. In addition, of course, we have a collection of Alden High School Yearbooks, beginning in 1942. Much of the material does not leave the building, so if you are interested, plan to spend some time doing your research.

Ruth Davis

CURATOR'S CORNER

One of the questions asked most frequently by those touring the Historical Society building is, "Where did all these things come from?" Of course the answer is, "From some very generous people over the past forty years." People continue to donate items. We only ask that the items have an Alden connection or a historical importance.

So far in 2007 we have received 8 newspapers headlining the Blizzard of '77, family papers dealing with the Korean War, a tin tobacco box, a Cabbage Patch doll for our toy collection, a matchbook cover advertising

Spencer's Motel and a thirty-six inch doll to model some of our children's clothing.

I have Alden, NY as a favorite search on E-Bay, as I know other Aldenites do. Recently I was able to purchase, and donate to the Society, Jim Huse's CCC discharge papers.

If you have an item to donate, please call me at 937-6400 or drop in on a Saturday between 10 am and 2 pm. We are especially looking for photos of old Alden houses and businesses. It will greatly help our catalog and displays if you can identify the location of the house or business.

Karen Muchow

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

APRIL 19, 2007 **Heartwood Wilderness Workshops**
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.

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

MAY 12, 2007 **Graycliff Estate, "Wright" on the Lake**
The Elma Historical Society has invited Alden and Marilla Societies to join them for a guided tour of the Graycliff Estate. The fee for the tour is \$9.00 per person and begins at 10 am. Following the tour we stop off for a buy your own lunch at a restaurant to be announced. Transportation via car-pooling with more details forth coming.

Graycliff sets high on a cliff with sweeping views over Lake Erie and stands as an architectural jewel awaiting your discovery. Built between 1926 and 1929, the Graycliff estate was designed by the renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright for the Darwin D. Martin family. Graycliff served as the Martin summer home from 1927 to the mid-1940s.

JUNE 14, 2007 **40th Anniversary—Historical Building**
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.

For you Civil War buffs the Marilla Historical Society will present Horace Greeley's eyewitness account of the draft riots of July 1863 in New York City as well as other cities, the causes and end results. Date is May 22nd at 7 pm. Also the 4th annual Civil War re-enactment will take place on July 13, 14 and 15. New this year is a Country Fair. Watch for details in the Alden Advertiser.

**CENTURY OLD HOUSE
13036 BRODWAY
ALDEN, NY**



Mrs. Doris Kostecky, owner/resident of our featured Century Old House, offers the following historical account as she best recollects.

“In 1905, my father, Joseph A. Weisbeck acquired the house and five acres on Broadway in the village of Alden. Dad renovated the house and moved in after his marriage in 1907.

In 1927, as the family grew with five children, more bedrooms were added. The roof was raised and the two original bedrooms and attic were rebuilt to include four bedrooms and a bathroom. The bedroom doors upstairs are original as well as the latch type handles. Also at that time the small porch was removed and the large parch was added.

In the cellar are some of the original oak and ash timbers for support and the foundation walls are made of huge stones and boulders.

In 1937 the two-car garage was added on the west side of the house.

Before the 1930’s it was permissible to have farm animals in the village so Dad raised cows, pigs and chickens on the property.

A large alfalfa field existed on the west side where the Mike Taylor residence is now located and a big apple orchard existed on what is now Sabers’ Floral Shop.

Behind the house is the original barn. Tannery Creek still flows in the old pasture behind the barn. The house now sits on a lot that has been reduced from the original five acres to about two acres.”

Doris Kostecky

