

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2003

**OFFICERS:**

*President..... Roberta Vincent  
Vice President..... Ron Savage  
Secretary..... Janet Koelbl  
Treasurer..... Ralph Davis  
Curator ..... Ruth Davis  
Editor ..... Carl Matthies*

**Directors:**

*Judy Hotchkin  
Joe Kipfer  
Marlene Roll  
Sal Sardella*

**Directors:**

*Ron Savage  
Ralph Stoos  
Paul Van Ornun  
Roberta Vincent*

**MEETINGS**

*Held every second Thursday from September thru June at 8 pm*

*Everyone is invited to attend...doors open at 7 pm so you have time to tour the museum*

*A brief business meeting is followed by an interesting and informative program, many times with a guest speaker. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences for the evening's program. Afterwards stick around for a social complete with home made refreshments.*

**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, mended and cherished.*

**OPEN HOUSE:**

*The museum is open to the public every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from October thru June from 2 to 4 pm*

*The museum will also be open during the Alden Art Show on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and during the "Christmas in the Park" on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm*

**MONTHLY PROGRAMS:**

*September Meeting 9-11-2003 .....LETCHWORTH STATE PARK*

*Join us for a picnic outside of the Historical Building starting at 6:30 pm.*

*Then tour the museum and stay for the meeting*

*Mr. Ralph Stoos has a video documenting the history of Letchworth State Park he would like to share with us.*

*October Meeting 10-9-2003 .....ALDEN GRANGE*

*Mr. Jerry Reynolds will give an informative talk on the history of the former Alden Grange with an open discussion to follow...everyone is welcome to share what they remember and know about the Grange.*

*November Meeting 11-14-2003 .....NEELANDS DAIRY*

*Mrs. Fay Neeland Miklinski will be present to give us a first-hand account of the former Neelands Dairy of Alden. This was a favorite place for folks of all ages, far and wide, especially on those hot summer evenings. If you worked there you may have some interesting stories to share.*

*December Meeting 12-11-2003 .....CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM*

*Come and enjoy our Christmas program following the usual brief business meeting. As always everyone is welcome to share a little bit of the Christmas spirit along with some hot refreshments to warm you up.*

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

*Our past year has been a successful and busy one. Special thanks go to Past-President Ron Savage and our retired Secretary Vi Savage; our Curator, Ruth Davis; our Treasurer, Ralph Davis; our Historian, Len Weisbeck; and all our directors listed on the front side. Laura Airey has been especially busy with the Landmark Building Collectibles. Their dedication and hard work has kept the museum an interesting and educational place to visit. Last, but not least, our gratitude to the Town of Alden for monetary and maintenance assistance.*

*We have had great programs this past year and many more are planned for the coming year beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. All we need is YOUR ATTENDANCE at our meetings and programs. You are invited to a hot dog roast on the lawn at the Historical Building starting at 6:30 pm. The program that night will be about Leitchworth Park. This would be a great time to visit the museum and be surprised by the memories as you browse around the eight rooms of exhibits. The rest of the fall programs are listed on the front side. I hope to see you at one of these lively and informative programs. We'll be looking forward to seeing you in September.*

*Roberta Vincent*

## **CURATORS REPORT**

*The Historical Society owns a "democrat", but not a republican. The buggy, which is displayed on the front porch, is typical of the wagons which were popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The name democrat refers its use by the common class of working people. It was used for transportation and for utilitarian purposes. It is defined as a light uncovered wagon with two or more seats. To provide a more comfortable ride there are springs under the box. In some wagons, there are also springs under the seats. If you compare it to the automobiles of today, it would be the mid-size car of its era. (Information from "Country" Magazine). Our democrat wagon was built by the Studebaker Company of South Bend, Indiana. A plaque on the back indicates G. F. Funke of Akron, NY sold it.*

*Each year, the Historical Society receives between 30 and 50 different artifacts. 2003 is proving to be no exception. Ask any member for a listing of some the latest items received by the Historical Society. These items add to our collections and add to what we know about Alden's history and the way people lived and worked and played.*

*Everything is recorded with as much information as we can obtain. Everyone is welcome to check out the codes on the items and then look at the Accession forms for information on background of the items.*

### **Carousel Restoration**

*Last September, our toy carousel was turned over to the Art Restoration department at Buffalo State College. Work was needed on the dolls, the carriages and the mechanism. The dolls have been restored. Work on the rest of the parts will continue through the fall.*

*Ruth Davis*

## **DONATIONS**

*If you wish to donate artifacts to the museum please contact Ruth Davis at 937-9315. Our collection policy states that donations should be things that have an Alden connection.*

## **SCHOOL HOUSE**

*Ringing of the bell started each day at the Henske Road Schoolhouse.*

*Built circa 1834 it sat on a hill across from the Henske Farm (now Foss farm) on Henske Rd.*

*It schooled local children until 1929 and held school board meetings until 1950.*

*In 1976 it was donated and moved to the Alden Town Park by the Henske family for display during the bicentennial.*

*Restoration began in 2002 and is a work in progress yet again this year with the support of private grants, local business people, clubs and organizations*

*Marlene Roll.*

## **LANDMARK COLLECTIBLES**

*Currently there are 18 different landmarks in the collection.. The latest additions are the Town Line Lutheran Church and the Town of Alden sign. Some of the items immediately available are Bennett Mfg., St John's Church, 1914 School Bldg., Stowell's Pharmacy as well as others. Call Laura Airey at 937-7438 for a complete list and to place an order. Each item is \$23.00. They make excellent Christmas gifts.*

*Laura Airey*

## **RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

### **BOOKS**

*Come on Teacher by Florence Lyons who tells about her experiences in one-room schools, the last of which was in Crittenden.*

*Grandpa Come to Stay by Louise Nantz whose home was a farm on Crittenden Road.*

*Manual for the Alden Grange - 1946*

*The receipt book for stock in the Original Black Water Baths which names the stockholders and the amount of stock held*

*Secretary's minutes for the Alden Hose Company - 1899-1903*

### **OTHER ITEMS:**

*Baseball scoring books - Rexall team*

*Baseball Jersey from the Bennett Team -1943*

*"Delineator" magazines ("Fashion, Culture and Fine Arts") 1890's*

*Ruth Davis*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*New members are always welcome. Your support and effort will ensure that our museum will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Annual dues are \$5.00. Life Memberships are \$50.00.*