

# ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

### OFFICERS:

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

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*Fred Blowers  
Judy Hotchkin  
Joe Kipfer  
Carl Matthies*

### Trustees:

*Marlene Roll  
Sal Sardella  
Ron Savage  
Ralph Stoos  
Roberta Vincent*

*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.*

### 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.*

### 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 in September and during the "Christmas in the Park" festivities in December from 2 to 4 pm.*

### MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

*September Meeting 09-08-2005 ..... BEHIND THE MUSEUM DOORS  
Ever wonder what is behind the closed doors, what is in the drawers, the cabinets, the closets, the storage areas that are not normally open for public viewing. This will be your chance to find out because they will all be open for your inspection and to satisfy your curiosity. Even the files and record books will be made available for you to view and ask questions.*

*October Meeting 10-13-2005 ..... PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED*

*October Special Event 10-29-2005..... PROGRESSIVE DINNER  
Join us for a fun filled evening at our first ever Progressive Dinner. We will begin with hors d'oeuvres at the Cheektowaga Historical Museum. After a brief tour we move on to the Lancaster 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 historical society.*

*November Meeting 11-10-2005....LABYRINTH AT ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Ever wonder what is the difference between a labyrinth and a maze? Be sure to attend this meeting and listen to Ms. Margaret Rose tell us about the labyrinth that has been constructed behind St. Aidan's Episcopal Church on W. Main St. If you know very little of this ancient meditative art form, then here is a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge.*

*December Meeting 12-08-2005..... FAMILY HOLIDAY RECIPES  
Come and share with us your favorite holiday recipe. Tables will be set up to display your holiday delights. Then after a brief business meeting we will enjoy a festive treat, a little bit of Christmas spirit along with some hot refreshments to warm you up.*

## **REMAINS OF GRAVESTONE FOR HANNAH ALDEN HIBBARD**

*The Historical Society is spearheading a drive to raise funds to replace this crumbling gravestone. This stone marks the very spot where Hannah Alden Hibbard was laid to rest. She is special to Aldenites since her maiden name was used for our Town of Alden. Please consider what the name "Alden" means to you. If you feel that we do owe her a simple gravestone, consider donating something toward this fund. Please specify for the renovation of Hannah Alden's grave marker, c/o the Alden Historical Society, 13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004 or call 937-6894 for more information.*

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## **CURATOR'S REPORT**

*One of our recent acquisitions is a sixteen-page biography of Thomas Farnsworth, written by one of his descendents who lives in Utah. This is an important addition to our biography collection. Thomas Farnsworth was one of the very early land-owners in the town and village.*

*Thomas, who was born in 1768 in New Hampshire, began at an early age to deal in land. He continued to do the same in Massachusetts. At the urging from his daughter Laura and her husband Paul White, he and his family moved to Alden in 1814. By selling off his land in the east, he had enough money to buy 200 acres in what is now Alden village.*

*In 1822 the Farnsworths built the first frame house in the village. He also set up a tannery beside the creek on his property. In 1825 he was operating a hotel. In 1831 he sold a lot to be used for the first Presbyterian church and in 1870 he sold the lot beside it for the Alden Union School. Church Street created a triangular plot which he donated to the village. Thomas created Emerson and Irving Streets from his holdings. The Alden Central School buildings are now on the land he owned.*

*His granddaughter, Carrie & her husband Col. Joseph Ewell donated Farnsworth land and money for the construction of the stone Presbyterian Church and the library.*

*Thomas and his wife Demis, and many of his relatives are buried in the Alden Evergreen Cemetery. Look for names such as White, Ewell, Martyn, Lord and Robinson*

*The biography as well as a pedigree chart and a biography of Paul White, will be in the files of the museum. You may borrow them to study.*

*Ruth Davis, Curator*

## **HISTORICAL BLDG. OPEN HOUSE**

*On Sept. 11 from 2 to 4pm you are invited to come in and see all the new work that has been done to the inside of the museum. New carpeting and linoleum were installed, the staircase was stripped and refinished by our Trustee Fred Blowers. The town paid to install a new ceiling in the war-room and wall repairs were made in the kitchen by Trustee Joe Kipfer. Also many of the society members pitched in to clean and rearranged the museum. This will be the perfect time to see our museum at it's very finest.*

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

*Once again our past year has been a successful and busy one. I wish to thank all the officers, the trustees and the membership for their dedication and hard work this past year. Also many thanks to the Town of Alden for supporting our budget and for maintaining our building and grounds.*

*Roberta Vincent, President*

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS LOOKING FOR PHOTO OF NEELANDS**

*We are looking for a photograph of the front of Neelands Dairy the way it was before it closed. The dairy was built in 1946, closed in 1989 and was widely known for it's homemade ice cream. If you know of a photo of the dairy please contact Marlene Roll at 937-4549 or any historical society officer.*

## **LANDMARK COLLECTIBLES**

*Currently there are 18 different landmarks in the collection. Call Marlene Roll at 937-4549 for a complete list. Each item is \$23.00. They make excellent Christmas gifts.*

## **STATIONERY AVAILABLE**

*The Historical Society has made available notepaper and envelopes with a picture of the Alden Historical Building. Cost is \$5.00 per pack of 6 sheets with envelopes and is available at the Alden Historical Building or any member.*

## **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.*